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GEM



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THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2011

COURT HEARS PHUKET AIR TRAGEDY DETAILS

Thai plane crash inquest finally opens

A TWO-DAY inquest has been taking place this week into the death of 22-year-old Alex Collins of Maesteg.

Alex, and his girlfriend Bethan Jones, from Porth in the Rhondda, were both killed in a plane crash in Thailand in September 2007.

The couple, who met as students at Cardiff University, had set off only four days earlier for a year-long round-the-world trip.

They had flown to Bangkok but decided to move onto Phuket and took a flight with One to Go airline, which was blacklisted in the EU over safety concerns.

The plane crashed in torrential rain as it landed at Phuket International Airport.

Ninety people were killed, although there were more than 30 survivors.

It is understood that Alex was killed instantly but Bethan

by JAYNE
ISAAC

survived with severe burns and died 10 days later in hospital, with her parents at her side.

Alex's father, Richard Collins, flew out to Thailand with a friend to try and find his son, who was initially listed as missing.

Alex was later identified as being among the dead.

His body was returned home to Maesteg and he was buried at Maesteg cemetery, following a service at Our Lady and St Patrick's RC

Church. His parents are Richard and Margaret Collins, who own the Travella clothes shop in Maesteg. He was an only child.

The inquest, which opened on Tuesday, is being held in Lincoln, along with those of other British victims of the crash.

A verdict was expected as The GEM was going to press.

Alex's family and friends have set up The Garnwen Trust in his memory, and it is raising thousands of pounds to build a log cabin at the Afan Argoed Country Park.



KPC GETS A RECYCLING BONUS!

RECYCLING old cloth and material has helped a local young people's charity raise cash.

Claire Beighton, business development manager from Bag4Sport, presented a cheque to KPC Youth recently for £72.56, after they raised the funds

through textile recycling.

The Devizes-based social enterprise Bag4Sport has now supported more than 1,000 clubs and community groups from all over Britain by fundraising for them.

The idea is simple: Bag4Sport raises funds by buying unwanted clothing and soft toys, which are then re-used by tex-

tile recyclers to provide affordable clothing to countries in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Any left-over funds after are then ploughed back into sponsorships for clubs, which include help with tournament days, new kits or trophies.

HOMES WILL BE BUILT WHERE NANTYMOEL'S GILEAD CHAPEL STOOD

PLANS to build a pair of semi-detached houses on the site of an old chapel in Nantymoel have been approved by Bridgend planners, despite opposition from neighbours.

Mr S James has been given consent to build the houses on the site of Gilead Chapel at Dinam Street.

The houses will be two-storey at the front and three-storey at the rear. Balconies will be created at the back of the houses. The properties include integral garages.

They have been designed with the conservation area in mind and will cover as closely as possible the original footprint of the chapel that was previously on the site.

Slate or slate-like roofs will be installed, along with four panel exterior doors with a paint-like finish.

The garage doors will have a vertical plank appearance. The windows will have the look

of traditional sliding sash windows and will be white.

The council's conservation and design officer stated that the scheme is compatible with the preservation of the character of the Nantymoel Conservation Area.

The design makes "adequate reference" to local vernacular design to ensure that the development does not jar against its context.

Residents living near the site have objected because the frontage of the two properties would take up four on-street car parking spaces which will be lost to local residents.

There is also concern about the access to both garages, which would be across the pavement.

The area has many disabled people who use mobility scooters. It is also a main walking route to the village school.

They say that they have no objections to the two houses - which they would prefer to the derelict site which now exists since permission was given to demolish

one of the oldest chapels in the conservation area.

Residents feel that their parking needs are not being considered while preference is being given to outsiders coming into the village. They all claim that the loss of four spaces will make an already difficult situation almost impossible.

Neighbours also point out that building houses with integral garages is out of keeping with the conservation area, as there are no houses with that configuration.

Residents have urged highways officers to visit the street either after 5pm or at weekends, when people are not in work, to judge the parking situation for themselves.

With regard to the objections on the loss of parking, which is the main reason for objection, planners state: "The highways department has not objected to the proposed development on the basis that the submitted scheme provides a reduced level of parking to serve the proposed development which is in a sustainable location. Due regard has been had

to the terrace nature of the surrounding dwellings and the resulting high demand on kerbside space in reaching this view."

Objections on the grounds of loss of light, loss of privacy and unsafe access have all been dismissed by planners.

In his appraisal, planning officer David Llewelyn said that the site had been left vacant since the chapel was demolished in 1990.

It has become derelict and overgrown. The site is on the bend before the junction with Commercial Street.

He said that the proposals were compatible with planning policies and were recommended for approval because they did not adversely affect highway safety, privacy or visual amenities or so significantly harm neighbours' amenities as to warrant refusal.

It was also considered to be compatible with the preservation of the character of the Nantymoel Conservation Area.

JAYNE
ISAAC

POLICE HUNT MAN AFTER KENFIG HILL INCIDENT

POLICE are investigating an incident at around 5.50pm on Sunday, March 20, when a man approached a 13-year-old girl on the bike-path between Croft Goch Road and

Yr Hendre, Kenfig Hill, and pulled at her clothing, before making off in the direction of New Road cottages.

He was described as tall, of slim build, wearing a black hooded top, black trousers and black workman-style boots. Anyone with information is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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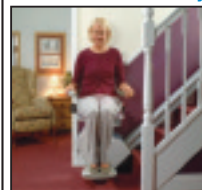
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TESCO IS A DONE DEAL

THE agreement between Bridgend County Borough Council and landowners in Porthcawl has been signed and sealed, meaning that work can start on the building of a Tesco supermarket.

(See page 3 for a full report).

Don't forget -
the clocks go
forward on
Sunday! See
page 16 for our
special feature.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Close tax loopholes that benefit casino capitalism'

TO an extent, I agree with Alun Cairns' GEM article last week that following on from Labour's disastrous handling of the economy, cuts have to be made.

That said, I would certainly question the speed and depth of cuts, not to mention the disproportionate amount of cuts to Welsh capital funding and the savage blow to frontline services.

What the article does illustrate, however, is that other than the colour of their ties that they wear, the only difference between Labour and Conservative politi-

cians is the speed of the cuts that they would propose.

It would appear that apart from the ideas from Plaid Cymru, the remaining choice is a sad reflection before the people of Bridgend and Porthcawl in May's Welsh general election.

It was interesting that Mr. Cairns raised the subject of the Private Finance Initiative, a system which is, de facto, heads private sector wins-tails the taxpayer loses.

Plaid Cymru have always raised caution to PFI, a system that will saddle debt on to the next generation, although the current financial crises have speeded up the process.

While the Tory-led UK Government have led an assault on the elderly and infirm with benefit cuts, they seem reluctant to close tax loopholes that benefit creative accountants and casino capitalism.

Benefit fraud is a problem, but prioritising the closure of such loop holes in tax avoidance would earn the Treasury £10bn, ten times the amount raised from tax fraud.

However, this along with the discontinuation of Trident and other grandiose military projects, has been sadly overlooked.

Andrew Doherty,
Bryncethin.

Local MP drops in with a cheque!



Madeleine Moon and Geoff Hill.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon visited the new Alzheimer's Society Café at Nolton Church Hall, Bridgend on March 17, having been unable to attend its launch last month.

She commented: "I surprised Geoff Hill from the Alzheimer's Society, with a cheque for £75, money I have earned from completing opinion poll surveys, a donation to help with their new

Café in Bridgend. "The new AS Café aims to create a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for families and their carers to share their experiences about dementia and to receive help and support.

"Guest speakers, music and dancing may well be included over the coming months.

"I hope this money will go some way in helping them with this wonderful new endeavour."

Walk for Life kidney event in Bridgend

BRIDGEND residents are being urged to take part in the Specsavers Walk for Life, Kidney Wales Foundation's biggest event of the year on Sunday, March 27.

One of the many walks taking place across Wales to raise vital funds to support families affected by Kidney disease, it starts at 11am from the Specsavers store. Funds raised will also go towards training staff at the Children's Kidney Centre, as well as supporting ground-breaking research into kidney disease and promoting organ donation.

For more information, visit www.kidneywales.com or contact 02920 3940.

Accountability and value for money!

THE Taxpayers' Alliance has revealed that 118 council employees are earning more than £100,000 a year in Welsh councils.

Bridgend came joint second in the league table, along with Torfaen and RCT with seven employees pocketing £100,000 or more.

With local authority budgets under growing pressure and frontline services facing cuts, it is essential for senior staff to set a good example and exercise pay restraint themselves.

selves.

These figures show that we desperately need an army of 'armchair auditors' to scrutinise BCBC's accounts to ensure value for money. Trust in politics is at an all time low.

By making local authorities more transparent and accountable, we can start to fix this. Greater openness and accountability will improve value for money and stop taxpayers' money being wasted.

Alex Williams
(Welsh Conservative candidate, Bridgend)

Porthcawl's regeneration: council updates

REGENERATION officer Andrew Parry Jones is to be invited to attend meetings of Porthcawl Town Council every eight weeks, to update them on matters relating to Porthcawl regeneration.

This suggestion was made at a meeting of the town council by Coun Graham Walter and was accepted.

Mr Walter said that these meetings would plug the gaps between the Regeneration Forum meetings.

Mr Parry Jones will be asked to provide a verbal

update on what's happening with the plans.

In the meantime, BCBC has confirmed that the next meeting of the Porthcawl Regeneration Forum will not be open to the public. It can only be attended by representatives of those organisations which sit on the forum, including the town council.

Attempts were made at its last meeting to 'gatecrash' when three members of the public – including Mr Walter, who was not a councillor at the time, and Coun Sean Aspey who was – turned up. They were asked to leave after forum members voted to exclude them.

ARE YOU IN THE PICTURE?



'One hundred ice cream cornets, please.'

THIS photograph was taken outside Langford's Ice Cream Shop in Kenfig Hill. Are you in the picture? Do you know when it was taken and what the occasion was?

If you can answer any of the above questions, or have further information, please telephone Keith E Morgan on 01656 788150.

Bunting bid to flag up Fairtrade



June Windsor one of the organisers showing Janice Gregory AM the products on offer.

A PIECE of bunting made from Fairtrade cotton and designed by Ogmores AM Janice Gregory will feature in an attempt to break the world record for the longest continual piece of bunting.

It will be added to others from across the UK to raise awareness of how Fairtrade cotton protects the livelihoods of farmers.

The AM said: "Fairtrade is transforming the lives of millions of farming families in developing countries. I am delighted to be a part of this event. I'd like to congratulate Fairtrade Wales on their success over the last few years and salute the passionate commitment of Fairtrade supporters and stockists."

She joined a 'Big Brew' coffee morning, in 2011 was launched on February 28 with the announcement that sales of Fairtrade products soared in 2010.

Help for Heroes sponsored ride

ABERYSTWYTH and District Motorcycle Action Group is organising a Help for Heroes sponsored run on April 29 in the Vale.

Riders will be visiting 'Thankful Villages' in Wales where those who went away to fight in the Great War all returned home alive.

We will be stopping at Colwinston for a short break before moving on to the home stretch back to Aberystrwyth. We will be recording the event for inclusion in the 'People's Collection' website and would like to contact a relative of a soldier from each village and give the community the title and honour of being a 'Thankful Village'.

Medwyn Parry,
(Chairman, Aberystrwyth and District MAG)

Rotarians offer a health check at Trinity Church

SATURDAY, April 9 is Stroke Awareness Day and the Rotary Club of Porthcawl, in conjunction with the Stroke Association, will be encouraging residents and visitors to pop into Trinity Church, John Street, Porthcawl, between 10am and 4pm to have their blood pressure measured.

Nurses and doctors will be on hand to measure blood pressure, and if it is raised, people will be advised to visit their doctor for a follow up test and treatment.

A Rotary spokesman said: "This short, simple, free test only takes a few minutes, but could help to save lives.

"High blood pressure is a key risk factor for stroke which can strike at any age; it is the third most common cause of death in the UK, and the single most common cause of severe disability.

"Other factors, such as smoking, being overweight, eating too much salt, drinking too much alcohol, not taking regular exercise, heredity and being male are also linked to high blood pressure."

As there are often no symptoms of raised blood pressure, Porthcawl Rotarians are hoping many people will take the opportunity of getting this free health check.

Read your GEM online:

www.bridgend-today.co.uk

We are now on Twitter:

@gem-news

Find us on Facebook -

www.facebook.com/gemnews

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 31)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
24 Thur	09.24	9.7	21.39	9.4
25 Fri	10.08	8.9	22.27	8.4
26 Sat	10.52	8.1	23.23	8.0
27 Sun			13.01	7.5
28 Mon	01.56	7.6	14.41	7.3
29 Tues	03.29	7.5	16.05	7.4
30 Wed	04.35	7.9	17.07	8.0
31 Thur	05.27	8.5	17.51	8.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Porthcawl regeneration: SIGNING CLEARS THE WAY FOR PHASE ONE (TESCO)

THE agreement which decides how profits are to be shared from the Porthcawl regeneration scheme has been signed.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and the Evans Families have signed the Owners' Agreement, which will be the basis for Porthcawl Regeneration, **JAYNE ISAAC reports.**

Signing this agreement clears the way for the council to finalise the deal with Chelverton Deeley Freed, who are developing the new supermarket for Tesco as part of phase one of the regeneration.

The deal, which was revealed by The GEM, gives the Evans Families 40 per cent of the overall profits – set at 2006 land values.

But for the supermarket development, the council has agreed to give the private owners 72 per cent of the profits, amounting to £4.7m of the £6.5m profit, leaving council taxpayers with £1.8m.

The council argues that it can use this £1.8million to attract match funding for the harbour development and also argues that by the time later phases are complete, the profit ratio will have corrected itself to the 60-40 split.

The Evans' will get a further £300,000 from the remainder of Phase One and then £10m from Phase Two, giving them a total take of £15m.

These are guaranteed figures, regardless of what property values are doing, rather than a percentage of the selling price of the land involved.

Outside valuers, brought in by the council after concerns about the deal were raised by a number of Porthcawl organisations, warned in a second secret report, also seen by The GEM, that the danger to the council was that land values may not get back up to their 2006 levels for many years.

This could leave the council with the choice of selling sooner and taking the hit in profits from their share of the money, or waiting.

But valuers have warned that it could be 20 years or more before land values recover. The agreement is for 20 years and in theory, could end before Phase Two which includes the funfair and Sandy Bay developments, is commenced.

The Evans Families could then seek to sell to private developers and would no longer be tied in to a deal with the council.

Lions migrate to a new base!

AFTER many years, Porthcawl Lions Club have moved to a new venue; their base at the Seabank Hotel is no longer available and they have now moved to the Hi Tide in Mackworth Road.

The Porthcawl Lions were sad to leave the Seabank, which has so many fond memories for members, but they still retain a link, with the charity book sales continuing at the hotel.

New members are welcome to join Porthcawl Lions at the Hi Tide on the first and second Tuesdays of the month at 7.45pm.

Lion Don Tickner is the membership person and he can be contacted on 01656 788583.

Following their very successful charity book sale last weekend, the Lions announce their next book sale is at the Seabank Hotel on the weekend of April 16-17.

Also on April 16, the Lions will be holding their foreshore clean-up between Rest Bay and Sker Rocks, starting at the Rest Hotel at 10am.

Members of the public and other town organisations are welcome to assist and anyone intending to take part should telephone 01656 772598.

David Richards
(Porthcawl Lions)

The signing of the agreement leaves a number of things up in the air. The Civic Society agreed to call for a referendum on Porthcawl Regeneration just a few weeks ago.

They have to stage a public meeting at which 10 people must ask for a referendum, which BCBC is then obliged to organise.

It is unclear now if they will proceed with that. The town council is also to stage a public meeting which will now probably concentrate on how the supermarket scheme is to take place.

A spokesman for BCBC stated: "The owners' agreement has been legally completed and we will soon be seeking to make an important announcement about consultation over the developer's plans for phase one of the Porthcawl regeneration."

New uniforms bring nurses out in an itchy rash

NEW uniforms for nurses throughout Wales have caused some of them to come out in itchy rashes.

The new scrubs-type uniforms were launched within the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Trust on St David's Day, but staff at the Princess of Wales Hospital have contacted The GEM to say that many of them have come out in a rash.

Staff have been told to wash the uniforms three times at 60 degrees before wearing them, and if there's a problem to wash them again three times. If they still get a reaction, new uniforms will have to be ordered in a different material.

The new all-Wales uniform was introduced to end the confusion between hospitals having different types of uniforms. All staff of each grade in Wales will now wear the same uniform, so that patients can immediately know who are staff nurses, sisters and other grades.

Although representatives of the Royal College of Nurses were involved in the design of

the uniform, some staff have complained that there is no front fastening, which means that soiled uniforms have to be taken off over the head instead of being unbuttoned or unzipped.

A spokesman for ABM Board said that they were aware that there had been some problems, but Occupational Health has given clear instructions to nurses about how to deal with the reactions and the situation is being monitored.

A spokesman for the Welsh Assembly Government said that the roll out of new uniforms across Wales has been completed.

He went on: "The number of staff who have experienced a reaction to the new uniforms was very small in comparison to the number of uniforms issued."

"However, more testing was undertaken on the uniforms to resolve the problems. Staff have been provided with clear guidance when they received their uniforms which include washing instructions to reduce the risk of a reaction."

JAYNE ISAAC

Embankment plans opposed

BRIDGEND town council has objected to a new planning application to build on the old railway embankment that separates old and new Brackla.

Paddle Homes have again submitted an application, this time to build 75 dwellings on the land, which is described as being off Waunscil Avenue.

The old railway line runs behind Waunscil Avenue and runs across the tops of Charles Street, Vernon Street and Morfa Street. New houses in Brackla have been

built on the other side.

The town council objected on the grounds of restricted highway access and also because three-storey properties would be an intrusion to existing residents.

They also argue that the embankment, which has naturally vegetated itself over the years, is an important green wedge between the two areas of the town.

Some previous applications have been turned down by BCBC, but one application was granted some time ago.

The final decision will be taken by BCBC planners.

Gift of new trailer will help club to clean up the beach at Ogmore



Regional Assembly Member, David Melding, presents the cheque to Pen-y-Bont SLSC.

THE 'Tidy Towns' project by Keep Wales Tidy has come to the rescue of Pen-y-Bont Surf Life Saving Club – by buying them a brand new trailer.

A Keep Wales Tidy spokesman said: "As well as saving lives, the members of Pen-y-Bont SLSC are deeply committed to the environment at Ogmore beach."

"Unfortunately, the area is seriously blighted by refuse which comes in on the tide, or is dumped by thoughtless visitors to the local beauty spot."

"While efforts have been made to keep the river mouth and beaches clean by Scope and

other volunteer organisations, much of the area is isolated and hard to reach, and taking the rubbish away has always presented a problem."

Now Pen-y-Bont SLSC will be able to cart the offending refuse away in their brand new trailer, and isolated areas, such as the beach at Merthyr Mawr Warren, can now be cleared of the rubbish which has been building up on the tide line for years.

David Melding, AM for South Wales Central, presented the cheque to the club and commented: "It's great to see this partnership working between Keep Wales Tidy and these committed members of the

community. This is what the Tidy Towns Project is all about."

Peter Lake MBE, president of Surf Life Saving Association Wales, commented: "Our youngsters will take part in the clean-ups we have planned as part of their environmental awareness training. We want young people to learn to take care of their world."

Anyone wishing to help Pen-y-Bont SLSC clean up the Merthyr Mawr Warren, or take part in any environmental improvement project in the area, should contact Ian Harvey at Keep Wales Tidy on 029 2072 6985.

LOCAL SCHOOL GETS A GREEN ACCOLADE



YSGOL Y Ferch o'r Sger was recently awarded its second Green Flag Eco-School status.

The award came after organising an eco day that involved every class taking part in a number of activities such as willow workshops and Fairtrade activities. The children also had the opportunity to listen to an assembly presented by a teacher from Zimbabwe, on life in developing African countries.

Mrs Rhiannon Dixon, headteacher of Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger, said: "I am delighted that we have achieved our second Green Flag and I would like to say a big thank you to Miss Garfield, our eco-school coordinator and the eco committee for all their hard work. Da iawn wir."

"Our aim for the school was to recycle more and become more energy efficient, which was achieved by introducing new stop taps in the washrooms and class light monitors. These schemes are a fantastic opportunity for

the children. They learn all about environmental issues, how the smallest changes can make a difference and how these issues affect other countries."

The school received its first Green Flag in December 2008 as a result of environmental

links with European schools and the development of a nature area and vegetable garden. This led to establishing a gardening club and recycling scheme.

The school also achieved the target of becoming a Fairtrade school in October 2009.

POINT TO POINT STEEPLECHASES ON
Saturday 26th March 2011
Ystradowen - Nr. Cowbridge
First race 2pm. Bring the family to the countryside to see six three mile steeplechases with superb viewing of the racecourse and Vale.
Car & Driver £10 • Passengers £5 each.
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For further details telephone The Secretary, Peter Thomas on 01446 774310 or 07855 366 902
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New hostel for the homeless approved in Bridgend town

PLANS to build a third hostel on land at Coity Road, Bridgend, have been approved by planners.

Hendre Housing Association has been given permission to build the 16-bed hostel for the

homeless on land now occupied by HHPG House, which is an office block due to be demolished.

The hostel will provide supported interim accommodation. It will be a three-storey building and will provide 16 en-suite bedrooms, plus a

communal lounge, dining area, kitchen, laundry, training room, interview room and staff offices.

Access will be the same as at present, directly from Coity Road. The scheme has the support of the Housing and Community Regeneration department and is a high priority within the authority's social housing grant programme, in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government.

The proposal is a working partnership between Hafod Care Housing Association and with their development arm, Hendre.

This will be the third hostel type facility on Coity Road and problems of anti-social behaviour have occurred at the adjoining facility, which has no on-site supervision at night.

Commenting on residents' fears, planners state that the adjoining site accommodates five self-contained flats for the homeless and a further six flats, while community facilities were built lower down Coity Road.

These facilities have to be located close to town centres with easy access to public transport and local amenities.

The report said that sites became available on Coity Road and each application accorded with development plan policies. The council is obliged to assess each planning application on its merits.

While anti-social behaviour has been deemed to be a valid reason for refusing an application, the applicants in this case have confirmed that the new hostel will have 24-hour staffing with a ground floor bed-sit provided for staff to sleep over.

The unit will not be a "walk-up" facility for the homeless and will be tenanted with people nominated by the council.

A management plan will be agreed to ensure that the necessary care and support are provided to the users of the unit.

The report went on: "It is expected that such a plan should ensure that problems of anti-social behaviour are minimised in and around the unit."

Hendre has also written to residents explaining the proposal and assuring them that it will not be used by people who have a problem with substance misuse and would also not provide emergency accommodation.

Objections were received from a number of residents of the Coity Road area concerned about further problems with anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol abuse.

They claim that drugs paraphernalia has been found in the area since the drug rehab unit was opened.

Planning officers said that the development should be approved because it complies with council and government policies and does not adversely affect privacy or visual amenities or affect neighbours' amenities sufficiently to warrant refusal.



ABOVE: Steven Davies with his wife Ruth and daughters Olivia and Kate.

Mother's pride as son helps disaster victims

A LOCAL woman, Mrs Lynne Davies was a proud but worried mother until last Saturday, because her son was in Japan as a member of a Fire Service rescue team.

Her son Steven is a station manager in Port Talbot; but has also volunteered to join the Great Britain overseas disaster rescue team.

As a member of the rescue team he is on a rota of one week duty, and can be called to a disaster anywhere in the

world. Earlier this month, he took off from Manchester to fly to Japan, landing in the American air base in Misawa, 60 miles from the disaster area.

The UK sent 10 teams, each consisting of six trained rescue staff.

Steven's rescue team from west Wales were then flown by the Americans in a helicopter to Ofunato, a town of 70,000 inhabitants, which is 80 miles from the damaged nuclear power stations.

Lynne told The GEM: "Because of the difficulty in communications, one

member of the team sends an e-mail via satellite to Hampshire fire brigade, and they relay messages back to other brigades."

However, Lynne could breathe easy again last Saturday, when Steven arrived back in the UK.

Teams were withdrawn when a Swiss team, operating nearer to the stricken nuclear reactor than Steven's team, reported rising radiation levels.

When Steven was young, his family lived in St Bride's Road, Aberkenfig, and Steven went to school at Pandy

Infants and Tondur Junior schools. He played rugby for Tondur RFC juniors.

He went to Archbishop McGrath RC secondary school, and then on to Plymouth University, where he graduated with an ocean science degree.

On leaving university he joined the Mid, and West Wales fire brigade, being stationed in Swansea. He played rugby for South Gower where he met his wife Ruth, and is the father of two girls Katie (seven) and Olivia (four) and now lives in Bishopston.

CLIVE MITCHELL

Chaos as the Cadets help Comic Relief



Rhys Francis as 'the CO' and Cadet Ieuan Potts, impersonating Flight Sergeant Catherine John.

ON Red Nose Day, a 'rank-swap' saw a temporary new CO and Senior-Cadet for the night at the headquarters of 1092 Bridgend Squadron ATC at Coity.

All ranks were 'up for grabs' and visiting Wing Staff Officer, Squadron Leader Protheroe's rank-slides were 'sold for a tanner' to recruit-cadet Thomas Daniel (13), who addressed the 'final parade', along with temporary Flight Lieutenant Rhys Francis (15) and temporary Flt Sgt Ieuan Potts (16).

The squadron raised £250 for charity, on an unusual evening of mayhem and indiscipline,

with 40 cadets on parade for a training evening, involving water, flour and cracker-eating contests.

Temporary Corporal-for-the-night, Dave Biddles, understands that the cadets' charity committee has decided to donate the cash raised, to the Princess of Wales Hospital Prostate cancer appeal.

Boys and girls from age 13 who consider joining should not anticipate this level of fun and stupidity on a nightly basis but are welcome to come along (with a parent) to the Squadron headquarters at Joslin Terrace, at 7.30pm on any Tuesday or Friday evening, to view a 'normal' night.

March muffins and flapjacks

LALESTON WI

At the March meeting, members enjoyed a treat of muffins and flapjacks with their tea.

The guest speaker Kath Mephram, who is a tutor at the WI Denman College, had prepared the goodies in advance and explained to the meeting how they were made. It made a change from the usual biscuits!

The president said how much the 'Holiday on Ice' show had been enjoyed and she report-

ed that tickets had been purchased for the show Joseph in Swansea on July 6.

Helen Fry had arranged the inaugural meeting of the book club and meetings would be held on the first Wednesday of month at Pyle Life Centre; the next being on April 6 at 2pm.

The next meeting will be on April 7 at the gardening club and new members will be most welcome. Why not come along at 7.15pm and join in?

Join Bridgend Lions' annual 'Swimmafyn'

AN annual swim gala (the Swimmafyn) is a major feature of Bridgend Lions Club's annual activities and is held in partnership with the borough's community groups looking for an easy, attractive way to raise funds for their own projects.

It's been running for more than 30 years and we are rather proud that it has produced more than £120,000 for the benefit of many such groups and local charities.

Today's financial climate makes it necessary for small groups to consider every possible way to maintain their income and the Lions' Swimmafyn is a perfect way to help. By getting their teams sponsored, local PTAs, Scouts, Guides, sporting and community

groups can use the gala to provide additional income, to raise funds for a special project or perhaps just to help towards ongoing expenses.

Other participating groups have included local charities or those who are supporting their employer's nominated cause.

The Swimmafyn is a wonderfully satisfying way to create a great team spirit in a very healthy activity, and it is returning this year to the new Ynysawdre Pool, Tondur, on Sunday, May 8, and we invite entries from all interested groups.

Contact the Lions swim organiser, David Jones, on 07816 911249 for more details and we will send an information pack, or check out our web site www.bridgendlions.org.uk which has downloadable details.

David Jones

Who wants to build what and where in the county borough

Mr D Tickner - Rear 1 Locks Court, Porthcawl - Lop yew trees to height of approx four metres.

Mr H S Thomas - 159 West Road, Porthcawl - Crown lifting and reduction to various sycamore trees. Mr John Evans - 11 Park Street, Bridgend - Fascia signs.

Greggs of the Midlands - Unit 11, Gentle Way, Broadlands - Internally illuminated badge sign box and projecting sign to rear of property.

Citroen UK Limited - Bassetts Citroen, South Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate - Various signs. Parkcare Homes (No. 2) Limited - Grove House, Heol-y-Cyw, Bridgend -

Change of use of existing dwelling to care home (use class C2).

Mr D Froley - 22 Bredenbury Gardens, Porthcawl - Rear dormer extension.

Welsh Ambulance Service (NHS) Trust - 4 Millers Avenue, Brynmynyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend - Change of use from tile and bathroom business to ambulance station.

Brynhyfryd Camping - Brynhyfryd Ffordd y Gyfraith, Cefn Cribwr - C/u camping caravanning site to camp site for pitches for 12 caravans/motor homes inc seasonal caravans/tenants. Parkdean Holidays -

Trecco Bay Holiday Park, Porthcawl - Strengthening of existing coastal protection and improvements to beach access including new access ramp.

Mr B Thomas - 78 Heol Brynecwll, Sarn - Two storey extension to existing building, re-sub of refusal P/10/784/FUL.

A Bassett and Company Limited - Jackson Cars Ltd, South Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate - External over-cladding and showroom extension.

Mr G Lee - 4 White Hart Cottages, Llan Road, Llangynwyd - Rear extension, for larger kitchen/utility with bedroom above, ground floor WC, 1 parking

space and retaining wall to rear.

Mr J Lyons and Miss L James - 7 Heol Tre Dwr, Waterton - Single storey extension to living room and porch.

Ms M Hodges - 6 White Hart Cottages, Llan Road, Llangynwyd - Rear extension for kitchen/utility with bedroom above, new WC and retaining wall to rear.

Mr and Mrs C and R James - 5 White Hart Cottages, Llan Road, Llangynwyd - Rear extension for kitchen/utility with bedroom above, ground floor WC and retaining wall to rear.

Mr and Mrs R Henderson - 9 Woodlands Rise,

Bryntirion - Demolish substandard kitchen and erect new single storey rear extension.

Mr Kim Walker - 23-27 High Street, Ogmore Vale - Extend commencement of P/05/1686/FUL for further five years, nine self contained starter home flats.

Mr M Morgan - 2 Castle Meadows, Coity - Single storey extension. Hafod Housing Association - 1 Springfield Close, Bridgend - Two storey extension with associated internal and external alterations including drainage works.

Mr G Mackenzie - 37 Riverside, Aberkenfig - Single storey front extension.

Mr M Joyce - Cae Plas, Bankers Hill, Cefn Cribwr - Single storey rear extension.

Mr Robert Thomas - 11 Heol y Bardd, Bridgend - Single storey rear extension.

Mr Frank Hope - 12 Heol Fawr, North Cornelly - Single storey rear extension.

Miss H D Thomas - 36 Rockfields, Porthcawl - Extension to existing dormer.

Mrs Marion Price - 18 Lewis Avenue, Bridgend - Proposed bedroom and ensuite extension.

Mrs Gladys Cooper - 27 Lougher Place, North Cornelly - Shower room extension to rear with

access ramp and handrail. Mr Alan Davies - 56 Salisbury Road, Maesteg - Ground floor single extension for new entrance lobby, WC and utility room.

Mr D Gully - Cwrt y Folan, Penyfaif - Application to retain 1.4 metre fence.

Mr I Morgan - 8 Bryntirion Hill, Bridgend - Two storey side extension and ground floor lean-to at rear.

Aaron Photography - 59 Commercial Street, Kenfig Hill - Proposed shop front improvements and new ramped access.

Porthcawl plans get the go-ahead as neighbours' objections are over-ruled

'CUBIST' HOUSE WILL BE 'A BEACON' AMONG 'UNDISTINGUISHED HOUSES'

PLANS to build a cube-shaped house in Porthcawl have been given planning consent, despite objections from neighbours.

Bridgend's development control committee has granted permission to Mr TG Williams to build a new dwelling as a replacement for an existing property at 30, Beach Road, Newton.

The new house, which will have an art deco design, will include a lift up to its flat roof and two swimming pools.

The new house would be four-bedroom and three-storey with a flat roof at about 30 feet high. The lift shaft would extend for a further eight feet above the flat roof.

The ground floor would house the swimming pool, utility room, technical room, bathroom and storage area.

The first floor would include three bedrooms, living space, a library area and a small balcony.

The second floor would contain the master bedroom and bathroom with a kitchen-dining area and extra living space. At this level, a large wooden deck area with a glazed balustrade would be provided on the southern side.

A staircase would link the main floors and the lift would also link floors and give access to the roof.

The building will be made of reinforced concrete clad with insulation and self coloured render. At second floor level, part of the northern and eastern bedroom wings would be curved and clad with copper.

Timber has been avoided because of high maintenance in a coastal location, so external doors and windows will be powder coated aluminium. Contrast will be provided by the use of inert composite wood on the balconies and the clad sections of the southern side.

The flat roof will be finished in dark grey waterproof membrane.

A four-car garage will be built on the southern side with a sun deck above. It will be screened by a hedge planted on top of the garage. Steps down would lead to a small outdoor swimming pool.

The council's conservation and design officer offered strong support for the design.

He said: "It is rare to receive a proposal for an imaginative design for a modern dwelling on a site where such design is fully justified, and where the proposed dwelling would enhance the interest and character of an area.

"This is such a proposal and the application is strongly supported. It is believed that the building will be a beacon for good design and will transform, with a landmark building that had both character and quality, a group of undistinguished 20th century houses that lead from the historic core of Newton to

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

the beach."

The report says that the design statement produced correctly identified the site as having "a special relationship to the sea and the sand dunes" and being one "where an incident or landmark building is justifiable."

The Environment Agency, which has opposed other applications in the New Road area of Porthcawl on the grounds that they lie on a flood plain, states that this site is considered at risk of tidal flooding.

However, the new house will replace a bungalow which has ground floor bedrooms and has no flood resilient design.

On the basis that there are no ground floor bedrooms, the design is flood resilient and an evacuation plan has been identified, the agency offers no objection.

Objections were lodged by Porthcawl Civic Trust on the grounds that the application was out of accord with policies which must be followed when considering development within the Heritage Coast area.

Caroline Vaughan, secretary of the society, described the design as "aggressively obtrusive in its stark, cuboid shape made even more invasive of the protected dunes by its height."

The society says that the new building would be a "brash concrete and glass structure" of a "blatantly overbearing design."

Architects Gillard Associates state that the design approach is appropriate to the seaside location, interpreting the 1930s modernism of the pavilion at Bexhill on Sea, a style which has become synonymous in the UK with coastal architecture.

However, Mrs Vaughan, on behalf of the society, stated that Bexhill on Sea is not on a Heritage Coast and 1930s modernism is not appropriate in such a location.

She said that suggesting that a landmark building would be acceptable within the Heritage Coast was "bizarre" when developments need to harmonise with one of the finest stretches of undeveloped coast in England or Wales.

She added: "The society is deeply concerned with the increasing usage of the term 'landmark building' as a means of circumnavigating planning regulations."

The society does not object to a replacement building but feels that the new structure should blend into the environment rather than "make a statement of its own importance."

Residents of eight neighbouring properties also

objected. They argued that the proposed development was totally out of character with the area and with other properties on Beach Road which were of traditional design. They say it will overshadow the unspoiled dunes on the Heritage Coast.

In his appraisal, planning officer David Llewellyn said that despite what the civic trust has said, this site does not lie within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, but was located immediately adjacent to it. It lies within the coastal zone boundary.

The existing dwelling is a dormer bungalow which has no architectural value. The new property would be a replacement dwelling which was acceptable in principle.

Mr Llewellyn said that despite criticisms of the design, it had silhouette, articulation, rhythm and colour.

The design reflected the requirement of the client

and also of the site context – with garages that "morph" into a sun deck and swimming pool.

He went on: "The resulting building is innovative and imaginative and has a strong and memorable character."

"That character has been inspired by 1930s modernism and can be seen as appropriate to the coastal setting, because 1930s modernism itself was influenced by maritime themes."

He said that suggesting that the new development should blend into the environment was to misunderstand the value to any built environment of incident and landmark buildings in the right location.

Local member Ken Watts asked for a full site meeting and this was held before members took their decision.

Planning consent was granted subject to a series of conditions.

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adnabod hylendid bwyd da**

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The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme is coming. It rates the places you eat or buy food on hygiene standards. Zero means urgent improvement necessary, five means very good. **Look out for the sticker or check the ratings online at food.gov.uk/ratings**



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Cynhellir y cynllun mewn partneriaeth â'ch awdurdod leol
This scheme is run in partnership with your local authority

PENCOED TOWN AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Plans in hand for twinning activities after great trip



LEFT:
The
'twins'
enjoy
bonhomie
and
excellent
cuisine.

TWINNING in Pencoed is very much alive after a successful visit to Plouzane, Brittany, in September.

The welcome by our twin town was very warm as usual and everyone present had a marvellous time.

The trip included a visit to the historical area of Brest, which was followed by an open air lunch at Fort du Lec. We were treated to an evening's entertainment by 'Les Marineurs' and served with excellent cuisine. Finally en-route to the ferry, we visited the Isle de Batz.

This year, 2011 is looking like a busy year for the twinning association.

A visit to Waldsassen, Germany, has been arranged for

June 9-14 with approximately 20 members travelling.

At the end of June, about 20 people from Plouzane, including a small choir, are expected in Pencoed. Arrangements for this visit are well in hand, with a programme of entertainment already being booked.

Hopefully, we will be able to accommodate all our visitors with host families in the Pencoed area. If you would like to host, and enjoy some splendid entertainment, contact one of the officers below.

Continuing support from Pencoed Town Council is much appreciated.

Pencoed Comprehensive School has had a link with the Hauptschule, Waldsassen, for about 20 years. In March, the school welcomed a student

teacher from Waldsassen for about three weeks. In July 2010, the school hosted a visit from Waldsassen pupils and hope to visit Germany in July 2011.

Most months, the association organises social meetings which are an ideal way to meet the people involved and find out more about twinning. The next two meetings are – Wednesday, April 13, Easter Supper with some interesting competitions; and Wednesday, May 25, a light hearted German quiz. They all start at 7.30pm at Pencoed Welfare Hall.

Anyone who would like to find out more about the twinning association should contact Linda Lynham on 01656 863639 or Wendy McDonald on 01656 865633.

MARK STEER

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS IN YOUR AREA

Golden wedding
Congratulations to Christine and Denis Portsmouth from East Avenue, Kenfig Hill, who will be celebrating 50 years of marriage tomorrow.

Christine, originally from Boston in Lincolnshire, met Dennis from Kenfig Hill, in the Pavilion, Porthcawl 52 years ago, while on holiday in south Wales.

The couple were married at St Bartolp's in Boston, which is known locally as the Stump, as it was the church Christine had always attended.

Dennis was born in Kenfig Hill and they now live in that same house in East Avenue. Both are well known and popular members of the local community, with Christine being a member of the Ministry Team at St Theodore's Church and Dennis being secretary of the Kenfig Hill & Pyle homing Pidgeon Society.

They will be celebrating with their daughter Shirley, son-in-law Michael, Son Robert, daughter-in-law Lynn and grandchildren Richard, Rachael, Amy and James, by having an open house at home tomorrow and then receiving a blessing in St Theodore's Church on Saturday.

This will be followed by a get-together with family and friends at the Grove Golf Club.

Kenfig Hill parish

THE Mothers Union welcome everyone to a coffee morning in the meeting room at Theo's, Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill on Saturday, April 2



Christine and Denis Portsmouth celebrate 50 years of marriage.

at 10.30am.

Mothering Sunday family services will be held on Sunday, April 3, at 9.30am in St Theodore's Church Kenfig Hill and at 6.00 pm in St Coleman's Church, Cefn Cribwr.

Councillor's Surgery

CLIVE JAMES, the county borough councillor representing Pyle and Kenfig Hill ward, will be holding advice surgeries on Saturday, April 9 at the Talbot Community Centre, 9 Prince Road Kenfig Hill from 10am - 11am and at the Pyle Life Centre, Pyle from 11.30 am - 12 noon. Contact Coun James on 01656 741160.

Pyle and Kenfig parish

THE annual vestry meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7 at 7pm. Nomination forms for PCC members and for people's wardens have been put up on notice boards in the Church and will be taken down on April 3.

There will be a meeting of the Social Sub in St James Church Hall at 7pm on Thursday, March 31. If anyone has any ideas for fundraising they would like you to speak to a committee member.

Another social evening has been organised, this time to see the

We Will Rock You show at the Millennium Centre, Cardiff, on Tuesday, March 29. The coach will be leaving the church hall at 6pm.

Pupils praised

CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Ewan Orchard, Class 1, Liam Evans, Class 2, Rhys Davies, Class 3, Mali Llewellyn, Class 4, Callum Lewis, Class 5, Lee Boundford, Class 6 and Jorden Daniels from Class 7. The Headteacher's award went to Eithan Hopkins.

Congratulations also go to Cai Rogers, Megan Stevens, Emmi Joy, Taryn Matthews, Lois Flower, Christopher Hatherly, William Vaughan and Scott Roberts for their excellent behaviour during lunchtime last week, and as a reward they will be joining Mr Goldsworthy for lunch.

Well done to Ceiran Jones, a pupil from class 6, who has signed with Swansea City Football Club and is now a member of the club's centre of excellence. All the Teachers and pupils at the school send their good luck wishes to him.

There were no football matches last Friday; however, they will be playing the quarter-final



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

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Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

rugby match at home against Oldcastle this week.

A book fair will be held at the school from April 4-8. Books will be available for purchase after school during that week.

Concert - Auditions have been taking place this week for the end of year concert. Each year their productions have become more and more ambitious and this year is no exception. Mynydd Cynffig will be presenting their own version of *The Little Mermaid* in the summer term.

Last week, classes 4 and 5 visited Cog Mors in Cilfynydd near Cardiff to take part in science activities. They studied a number of areas of science, including forensic and environmental investigations.

Cog Mors has a 'hands-on and outdoor' approach to learning about water treatment and environmental issues, an opportunity the pupils cannot experience in school.

Celebration

ON March 11, a 'hen party' was held for one of the most popular ladies in Kenfig Hill, Roz Peers, who works in

the local post office shop and was whisked away to celebrate her 40th birthday, in the Grove Golf Club.

The major surprise was the present that they collectively gave her, a week's holiday to Magaluf. Her friends then had the biggest surprise of all, for the first time in her life - Roz was speechless.

Charity event

THE ladies section of Kenfig Hill Labour Club will be holding a charity event at the club on April 1 at 8pm.

There will be entertainment from a number of artists. Entrance is £2, payable at the door.

Following on from this, the ladies have organised a fun fay on April 2.

There will be many events during the day including mini sports, karaoke, fancy dress and a disco. Tickets only £1. All proceeds will be donated to support a local family and their, seven-year-old daughter Elva Costemoo, a pupil at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Full details on 07846 679152.

The Carers' café serves community



THERE'S more to Porthcawl's Wednesday café than soup, sandwiches and homemade cake, as Assembly candidate Suzy Davies found out.

Porthcawl's 'Wednesday café' won glowing praise from Assembly Conservative candidate for South Wales West Lucy Davies who met staff and volunteers of Crossroads Care Bridgend County.

"The atmosphere is just as good as the food. The word has obviously got around, as the café was very busy. Locals were popping in for lunch, along with a number of carers who'd come in to spend the afternoon with their friends," she reported.

"The café is run as a not-for-profit organisation, supported in part by Bridgend County Borough Council. Nevertheless, this ven-

ture encourages the organisation to think along social enterprise lines."

Jane Questle, Crossroads Care's Scheme Manager in Porthcawl added: "We are very proud of the community café in Porthcawl. We draw in people from a wide area, which is why we were inspired to open other community cafés in Ogmere Vale and Pyle.

"We already co-operate very closely with social services and community health staff, as well as the Alzheimer's Society and other local organisations. Crossroads Care is always looking to expand our services in the community and is keen to explore the idea of social enterprise as a way of helping us do that."

News in and out of class at the Litchard Primary School

EISTEDDFODAU

ST DAVID'S Day was celebrated a little later this year with the junior department eisteddfod.

The event was a magnificent affair, with all pupils and staff getting involved for their relevant houses in Welsh dancing, singing, and oral recitations in Welsh and English.

Judging went on throughout the morning and judges had a very difficult task. Miss John and Mrs Leyshon kept the scores, and the results of the handwriting, English writing, poetry, Mari Lwyd tile printing, Welsh mirrors, coal miner sketches in pencil and charcoal and Eisteddfod Crowns, were also announced.

Certificates were awarded to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners.

The eisteddfod concluded with the Chairing of the Bard - to Lewys Biggs 6R for his newspaper report on Island Farm.

The infant department eisteddfod was also a great success. Each year group sang beautifully, with some excellent solo singers. Year-1 acted several sketches in Welsh and Year-2's poetry recital and folk dancing showed excellent Welsh skills throughout Key Stage 1.

WINNING HOUSE

IN a repeat of last year's results, Ty Porffor were the overall winners of eisteddfod 2011, narrowly beating last year's runners-up Ty Melyn.

Mrs Stephens commented on how impressed she was with the level of effort, accuracy and pronunciation that all the children had put into their performances.

ESTYN INSPECTION

LITCHARD Primary was inspected by a team of inspectors from Estyn who were very complimentary about the behaviour and overall conduct of the children.

EISTEDDFOD RESULTS

HANDWRITING: Year-3 - 1st, Robbie Williams - Eleri Thompson; 2nd, I Carly - Seren Dancy; 3rd, Princess - Estella Woronin.

Year-4 - 1st, Keshia - Millie Bryce; 2nd, Tatty Teddy - Kayleigh Granville; 3rd, Cuddles - Megan Davies.

Year-5 - 1st, Expeliamus 14 - Evan Laidler; 2nd, Edgeo - Emma Brook; 3rd, Baby Boo - Emily Bowden.

Year-6 - 1st, Magic - Jessica Craddock; 2nd, Ghostly 123 - Jacob Lewis; 3rd, The Black Curse - Harry Hopkins.

POETRY WRITING: Year-3 - 1st, Jack Rees - Euan Rees; 2nd, Rachel - Lucy Thomas; 3rd, Eleri Thompson.

Year-4 - 1st, Keshia - Millie Bryce; 2nd, Co Co - Chloe Quinn; 3rd, Cuddles - Megan Davies.

Year-5 - 1st, Expeliamus 14 - Evan Laidler; 2nd, AKG 7X1 - Iestyn Thomas; 3rd, Reznov - Ammon Radclyffe.

Year-6 - 1st, Purple Banana - Lewys Biggs; 2nd, Magic - Jessica Craddock; 3rd, Flammie Gobble Gobble - Emily Cadman.

ENGLISH WRITING: Year-3 - 1st, Liam - Firebolt; 2nd, Olivia - Amy; 3rd, Ella Jones and Ben Jones.

Year-4 - 1st, I Hate School.com - Daniel Exton; 2nd, Cuddles - Megan Davies; 3rd, Keshia - Millie Bryce.

Year-5 - 1st, Meggie Moo - Megan Howe; 2nd, Expeliamus 14 - Evan Laidler; 3rd, Emily Osment - Abigail Linforth.

Year-6 - 1st, Lewys Biggs; 2nd, Sophie Penman; 3rd, Harry Hopkins; 3rd, Zoe Mountjoy.

YEAR 3 - MARI LWYD TILE PAINTING: 1st, Chloe - Ailish O'Sullivan; 2nd, Shane Williams - Ryan Neagle; 3rd, JLS - Lucy Thomas.

YEAR 4 - WELSH MIRRORS: 1st, Selena Gomez - Lois Cook; 2nd, Tattie Teddy - Kayleigh Granville; 3rd, Black Eyed Peas - Mia Pritchard.

YEAR 5 - COAL MINER SKETCHES: 1st, Steven Gerrard -

Kieran Evans; 2nd, Katy Perry - Maisie Penman; 3rd, Cesc Fabregas - Tom Lewis.

YEAR 6 - EISTEDDFOD CROWNS: 1st, Mamoon Ahmed; 2nd, Adam Thomas; 3rd, Megan Hamilton.

CHOIRS: 1st, Ty Melyn, Ty Coch; 2nd, Ty Porffor, Ty Oren.

ENGLISH RECITATION: Year-3 - 1st, Dafydd Rees; 2nd, Lucy Thomas; 2nd, Liam Kilburn and Kai Newman; 4th, Eva Smith.

Year-4 - 1st, Kyle Channing; 2nd, Abigail Matthews; 3rd, Megan Davies; 3rd, Rhys Griffiths.

Year-5 - 1st, Callum Vause; 2nd, Nathan Alexander; 3rd, Iwan Wheeler; 4th, Erin Morgan.

Year-6 - 1st, Aaron Alston; 2nd, Jamie Davies; 3rd, Nia Bayliss; 4th, Nia Obaid.

SINGING: Year-3 - 1st, Ryan Neagle and Ben Jones; 2nd, Tom Matthews and Ethan Bromley; 3rd, Estella Woronin and Ella Jones; 3rd, Emma Bevan and Grace George.

Year-4 - 1st, Annie Llewellyn and Kayleigh Granville; 2nd, Ellie Williams; 2nd, Mia Pritchard and Millie Bryce; 4th, Lewis Jones and Rhys Loveluck.

Year-5 - 1st, Abigail Linforth, 1st, Evan Laidler; 3rd Tayla-Rae Lewis and Millie Burns; 3rd Laurie Morris and Ellie Davies.

Year-6 - 1st, Megan Evans; 2nd, Jessica Craddock; 2nd, Harry Hopkins; 4th, Morgan David.

FOLK DANCING: Year-3 - Ty Coch; Year-4 - Ty Porffor; Year-5 - Ty Melyn; Year-6 - Ty Coch, Ty Porffor.

WELSH RECITATION: Year-3 - 1st, Tom Matthews; 2nd, Jordan Jones; 3rd, Louis Edwards; 3rd Olivia Howe.

Year-4 - 1st, Elizabeth Dowdall; 2nd, Chloe Quinn; 3rd, Megan Davies; 4th, Daniel Exton.

Year-5 - 1st, Megan Howe; 2nd, Lowri Howells; 3rd, Iestyn Thomas; 4th, Morgan Hall.

Year-6 - 1st, Dafydd Thomas; 2nd, Alex Harrison; 3rd, Ryan Kershaw; 3rd, Jack Bogue.

PIANO: The four entries for the piano competition all were so good that Miss John could not decide between them, so well done to Abigail Linforth, Lowri Howells, Megan Howe and Imogen Lewis who all shared first prize.

GUITAR: 1st, Bailey Ringham; 2nd, Matthew Bird; 3rd, Lewys Biggs.

SCHOOL GYMNASTICS

THE school gymnastics team entered the Mid Glamorgan tumble and vault competition and narrowly missed out on bronze medals by 0.9 points.

This was a very reputable performance against gymnasts who are currently training with the British Squad.

SUPER SWIMMER!

Well done to Ella Matthews from Miss Duffy's reception class who has recently passed her 5m swimming badge!

WELL BOXED, BENJI! CONGRATULATIONS to Benji Edwards 6S who won his second school boy boxing championship on February 22.

He beat boxers from Barry, Cardiff and Cwmbran to claim the Welsh vest. Benji has now fought 13 bouts with 12 wins - what a record!

SPARE KIT NEEDED

DOES anyone have any spare sports kit such as shorts, t-shirts and joggers in junior sizes that their children have outgrown?

We do keep a small supply of kit, but this is often borrowed and not returned. Thank you.

THANK YOU, IVOR!

A VERY big thank you to larger than life builder 'Ivor Goodie', who visited our school this week to explain to the children all about the dangers on a building site.

VA NEWMAN GLASS QUIZ LEAGUE

Llangewydd are the champions!

THERE were high scores in this week's matches.

Only one team failed to reach 40 points. Congratulations to Llangewydd Arms on winning the League at their first attempt in Division One. They had the highest score, with 57 points away to Laleston Inn 'A' who had 43.

Royal Oak Nomads were given a tough test at Oldcastle 'A'. At 30-29 after the written section, both had full marks in the individual and just a little blip on the run-in by the home side lost them the game by 52-48.

There was an excellent contest at Tyrisha Royals as Tondur Railway Club came good to win 53-47. Two in-form sides battled it out at Llynfi Arms, where the home team just edged it from Mackworth Arms by 46-44.

Already relegated

were Tondur Railway. Coychurch Wanderers did well at Maesteg Catholic Club's new venue, only going down by 47-43.

In Division Two, the first four teams still have a chance of promotion. After being 100 per cent for a long period, Six Bells hit a rough patch and this week lost again at home to Pheasant Poachers 50-44.

Cabo Roche, with a 49-43 win against Llangineor AFC, join Six Bells in first place and Pheasant Gamekeepers join the Poachers in joint-third after their 46-44 victory at Laleston Inn 'B'.

Oldcastle 'B's' bad spell continues and they went down 42-38 at Pyle RFC and finally, Heol-y-Cyw RFC might just have escaped bottom spot having won 51-41 at Oddfellows Arms.

Here are your teasers:

1. 'Patriotism is not enough' were the last words by which English nurse executed by the Germans in World War One?

2. British mills experienced the so-called 'Cotton crisis' in the early 1860s because of the disruption caused by which overseas conflict?

3. Name either of the two American Football sides who have played in four Superbowl finals and have yet to win the trophy?

4. Fluorine, bromine, iodine, chlorine and astatine are known as what?

A Rudge

Hon sec Quiz

League)

ANSWERS:
1. Halogens.
2. Buffalo Bills.
3. US Civil War.
4. Edith Cavell.



LEFT:
The choir
do some
last
minute
revision
before
taking to
the stage
at the
Porthcawl
Pavilion!

YSTRADOWEN CHOIR IN PORTHCRAWL FESTIVAL

COR Meibion Y Machlud of Ystradowen made a guest appearance at Porthcawl Pavilion's recent Cwlwm Celtaidd festival of folk dancing and music.

This was followed by a lively evening in the 'Eisteddfod Mochyn Du' held in Cardiff, when the choir sang traditional Welsh folk songs (Ar Hyd Y Nos,

Oes Gafr Eto, Mollianwn) together with some well loved Welsh hymns (Deus Salutis and Gwahoddiad) to an appreciative Sunday afternoon audience in Porthcawl.

A more competitive atmosphere, however, existed in Cardiff where the choir was competing against former National Eisteddfod winners Cordydd and Cor

Mochyn Du, the last named, playing at home, won the night's first prize awarded by the eminent adjudicator and conductor Alwyn Humphries in a contest between six choirs.

While disappointed

not to have won more than a small consolation prize, Cor Meibion Y Machlud's musical director, Eifion Davies, felt that the choir's visit to Sophia Gardens had not been wasted.

"We need to compete more often at this level

to continue with our preparations for this year's Eisteddfod in Aberteifi and (indeed the National) if we are to enter when it comes to the Vale next year," he said.

RICHARD KENNARD

Porthcawl's picnic for British Legion

THE 90th birthday of the Royal British Legion is being celebrated in Porthcawl – with a Picnic in the Park.

This open-air event, which will include a concert, will take place in the grounds of All Saints' Church on Saturday, July 2.

If the weather is inclement, the event will transfer indoors to the church and church hall.

There will be a nominal entry fee and a bucket collection, with all proceeds going to the 90th anniversary Poppy Appeal.

A number of local choirs, bands and instrumental groups are committed to the event, including Nottage Primary School, Porthcawl Comprehensive and the Swansea Air Cadets Bugle Band.

Local air, sea and army cadet units are involved and members of Porthcawl Lions and Rotary will help with stewarding.

Invitations are being sent to other Royal British Legion branches throughout south Wales

to take part with their standards, which will bring a large number of people into Porthcawl on the day.

An exhibition on the history of the Porthcawl branch is being put together by John David and Keith Morgan and

will take place in the church.

It will also be held at other venues with approaches being made to the library and the YMCA.

Further details will be available nearer the date

A jubilee medal for the children of Porthcawl...

EVERY child in Porthcawl is to receive a special medal being struck to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year.

The Diamond Jubilee committee has agreed that the medal, which will bear the logo of Porthcawl Town Council, will be given to every pupil at six local schools as part of the celebrations being organised in the town.

The committee will be carrying out fund raising over the next year and has also been promised a grant of £10,000 from the town council.

A series of events is being planned for the period June 2 to June 10, 2012.

In the meantime, local historian Keith Morgan is working on a commemorative book about the town which will include photographs and memories from the period 1952 to 2012.

This is being published later this year and will be on sale locally.

Local businessman Lindsay Morgan has been elected chairman of the committee and he has brought together a team of people from various groups in the town to form the committee.

THE ROAD CROSSING DEBATE CONTINUES

THE possibility of providing a pedestrian crossing at Newton Nottage Road in Porthcawl is still under consideration.

The Capital Projects Committee of the town council heard that a pedestrian survey carried out on the road showed that there was a low usage of people crossing the road.

Coun Norah Clarke said that for a crossing to be regarded as warranted, it must score 100 in the survey but the Newton Nottage Road scored only 4.2. She said that Fulmar Road scored more with 6

Coun Clarke said it was an unjustified use of public money to place a

crossing in an area which professionals felt was not necessary.

The scheme has been strongly supported by Coun Alana Davies who said that residents of houses on the side of the road furthest from town had been campaigning for a crossing.

The cost of providing a crossing has been given as £40,000 plus, and Coun Gerald Davies asked if it was legal for the council to spend money against the professional advice of experts.

This is to be investigated by clerk Alison Leyshon with a report back to a full council meeting.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynnycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Support group

THE Clinical Support Group has been formed to provide advice and information to patients, family members and friends of anyone who has had surgery for bowel or bladder problems.

The group will be meeting in the residents' block community hall of the Princess of Wales hospital on Friday, March 25 between 2pm-3.30pm. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided.

For details, telephone Jackie on 07843 988432.

Maesteg U3A

THE February meeting of this charity was very well attended when the speaker Jane Woodford's subject was 'Israel and the Arab World'.

It was an informative and balanced narrative, covering the political divides between the people, the boundaries of the countries, and problems caused within these divides.

The subject created a spirited debate among the members.

The next meeting of the U3A will be held at the Central Church Hall, opposite the bus station at 2.30pm on March 29. The speaker, Mr Roy Evans, will speak on 'Climate change and you'.

Cross-country

TYNYRHEOL primary school head-teacher Martin Griffiths, is pleased with its involvement in the cross-country races that take place at secondary schools in the Bridgend CBC area.

At the last race in Cynffig, the school had four competitors taking part: Amber Crowle, Ioan Davies, Kai Lewis and Jake Whitfield.

Each term, friends of the school donate a book to the most improved reader in each class.

This term, the most improved readers were: Class 1 – Eithan Thomas who was presented with My Treasury of Fairy Tales. Class 2 – Kalem Podmore received a Children's Knowledge Encyclopaedia. Class 3 – Amber Croale received Children's Illustrated Internet Linked Encyclopaedia.

The books were presented at the school assembly.

Basic skills

TONU primary school head Mrs Sue Pilsher praised teacher Miss Handley, who had volunteered to co-ordinate work produced to demonstrate the pupils' development in basic skills.

Last week, there was

an assessor at the school who spent a day talking with the staff, pupils, governors and parents. Through the efforts of everyone involved, the school has again been awarded the 'Basic Skills' quality standard.

Mr Lewis' class would like to invite all parents and friends to share in their class assembly at 10.20am tomorrow (Friday, March 25).

Charity work

OGMORE Valley Ladies Choir and Society have raised more than £58,000 since 1998, for charities.

Each year, they nominate a charity and this year it is the Macmillan Nurses.

The society recently held a coffee morning at the Ogmere Vale welfare hall, which raised the grand total of £430. This will be added to money already raised at other events and will be presented to the charity later in the year.

Volunteers sought

THE Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales is looking for volunteers to help organise events at the visitors' centre in the nature reserve at Parc Slip, Tondur.

Also, a wildlife watch leader is needed for the children's group at Kenfig nature reserve organised by the trust.

Full details from Nicola on 01656 725399.

Soup lunches

IN support of the charity Christian Aid a lunch consisting of a bowl of soup, bread

and a Welsh cake will be provided at the Bible church, Pandyr Road, Aberkenfig on Saturday, March 26 between 12noon and 1.15pm.

The lunch only costs £2.50 and all money raised will be donated to the charity.

Music

extravaganza

MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir is holding its annual concert in the town hall, Maesteg on Saturday, March 26 at 7pm.

The choir under its musical director Alun Hodges, also has a number of solo artists taking part.

Tickets on sale at the ticket office or telephone John on 01656 735007/739365.

The choir rehearses at the Royal British Legion club, Commercial Road on Monday/Thursday evenings 7pm-8.30pm. Visitors are always welcome.

Ladies choir

Côr Merched Cwm Garw (Garw Valley ladies choir) is holding its annual concert on Friday, March 25 at 7.15pm in Blaengarw Rugby Club.

Joining them will be guests Ogmere Valley male voice choir and music will be provided by the Pencoeed silver band.

The ladies choir rehearses in the Pontycymer old age pensioners centre on Friday evenings between 7.30pm-8.30pm. Visitors and new members welcome. More information on 01656 871024.

Ollie looking for a caring owner



ABOVE: Three-year-old Ollie is a playful cat who needs a new home.

THE Maesteg Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) is trying to find a home for Ollie.

Ollie is a three-year-old male tabby cat and has been neutered, microchipped and vaccinated.

Jan Brady from MAWS said: "Ollie is very playful, but a little boisterous with young children. "He is one of many cats that we are looking to home at the moment."

To find out more, telephone Jan on 01656 721496.

Search for a new Post Office in Wick

ANOTHER rural village is facing the loss of its Post Office – although in this case the closure has been described as "temporary".

Post Office Limited has written to "opinion formers" and customers in the area of Wick to inform them that, following the resignation of the subpostmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use, the local branch will be closing temporarily on March 30.

A Post Office spokesman said: "I would like to assure everyone that it remains our intention to keep a Post Office service in Wick, and we are currently investigating the

options available.

"Our priority is to maintain Post Office services to local communities and it is therefore important that any future service is sustainable for the person operating the service, and for Post Office Limited.

"Post Office Limited would like to apologise for any inconvenience the temporary closure may cause and to thank our customers for their patience at this time.

Plaid Cymru AM Chris Franks said: "Plaid welcomes the assurances from the Post Office that they intend to keep a service in Wick.

Loyal Dottie needs a home

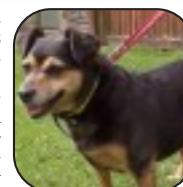
The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

THIS week, Linda Feagan highlights Dottie, a nine-year-old terrier.

Dottie is currently overweight, so is on a diet and exercise plan – she loves her walks and off-lead runs! She is a strong-minded little girl, and will need an owner who is used to terrier types.

She will need a few visits from her prospective owner before being rehomed. Once she has bonded with you she is really worth the effort – a loving and loyal little dog!

She is housetrained, and fine to be left alone for a few hours. Dottie is looking for an adult-only home, and would love to



DOTTIE.

be the only dog – and the centre of attention! Please consider her, she is really missing some home comforts.

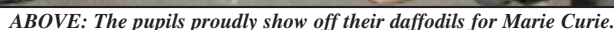
If you would like to offer Dottie a home, visit the Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, or call 01656 725219. You can see Dottie and some of her friends online at www.dogstrust.org.uk

School speakers hit the heights!



The project was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the school is thrilled to have raised so much money for a very worthy cause.

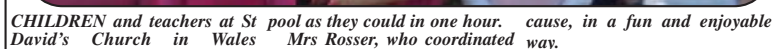
On Friday, the class followed up with even more fundraising by dressing up as monsters for Comic Relief.



The school was delighted that Robin won the prize for best proposer.

A magnificent result for these young people, promoting bilingualism at its best. MT

Pupils go to great lengths for breast cancer charity



Primary School, Colvinston, recently took part in a sponsored swim – to raise funds to support the new breast cancer unit, based at Llandough hospital.

They had to swim as many lengths or widths of a swimming pool as they could in order to raise funds for such a worthwhile fundraising event so enthusiastically.

THERE was an article in The GEM on February 24 regarding the 180th anniversary of the *Frolic* steamer disaster, wrecked off Nash Sands in March 1831 and the history of the Nash Lighthouses.

A gathering of interested people recently met at Nash Lighthouse to commemorate the occasion, organised by Brian Keitch who has researched the disaster. He arranged with Trinity House to pay a visit to the lighthouse at Nash.

It was a most interest-

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR
Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

ing afternoon, with people coming from all over the Vale. At the same time, a plaque was unveiled on the Quay at Haverfordwest to commemorate the *Frolic*, which sailed from there on that fateful night.

There were no survivors and bodies are buried throughout the coastal area of the Bristol Channel. I did some research of my own and found one to be

buried in the churchyard of St Bridget's, St Brides Major. James Lloyd, late butler of R L Ackland of Boulston in the county of Pembroke was one of the unfortunate passengers who perished on that night.

ORRA celebrated two birthdays at their last meeting on Thursday, March 18; Miriam (90) and Joy (81). 'Happy birthday' was sung to them. Members also enjoyed a film by Geoff and Rhiannon of their holiday cruise.

EILEEN MATHEWS celebrated her 'bus pass' birthday with family and friends at the Fox and Hounds on March 18, to make it a three-day event, she was also mentioned on a BBC programme by Owen Money on Saturday.

birthday gifts should be made to the Stroke Association Tuesday Club, Bridgend, who have helped her through this troublesome time. We wish her well.

THE local produce market on Saturday was again a success with yet another new stall, Welsh coffee. The next market will be held on Saturday, April 16.

DIARY DATES:
Grand boot sale and produce market on Saturday, May 21 (10am – 2pm). Gates open for sellers 9am, to be held in the field next to the Vicarage (CPD's field). For information, phone 01656 880385, or email events@floattec.co.uk.

Serenade at Slade, Southerndown – opera gala in the garden, Saturday June 18. Gates open 5.30pm. Performance starts 7pm. Further information on 01656 880048.

National Gardens Scheme open for charity – Slade, Southerndown. Admission £3, children free. Saturday and Sunday 16–17 April, 11am–5pm.

Mayor's ValePlus coffee morning

VALEPLUS, the local charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with learning disabilities, will be holding a fundraising morning on Tuesday, March 29.

The event is hosted by the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan and will be held at St Helen's Church Hall on Wyndham Street, Barry, between 10.30am-12noon. Tickets cost £1.50 and include tea/coffee and a biscuit.

There will be a range of stalls to include cake, crafts, toiletries, as well as a raffle.

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Out and About with The GEM

The day Merlin and Arthur met a certain Merlin and Arthur!

BARRY Island theatre group T4K have been busy rehearsing for their new show, the hilarious musical 'What a Knight', set in Camelot.

T4K's Merlin and Arthur recently visited Amelia Trust Farm and met their new donkeys, who as if by magic, were also called Merlin and Arthur!

Dedicated volunteers organised various fundraising events to buy the donkeys and hope to train them to give children rides. The group also aim to raise

FROM ONE MERLIN TO ANOTHER...!



enough funds to buy a foal.

A spokeswoman reported: "Hannah (King Arthur) and Sarah (Merlin the magician) had great fun getting to know the donkeys, but the four-legged Merlin and Arthur seemed a little dazzled by their namesakes costumes."

T4K will be perform-

ing 'What a Knight' at Barry Island Community Centre at 7.30pm on April 1-2. There is also a matinee on Saturday at 2.30pm. Tickets are available from A & A Dancewear, Park Crescent Barry or on the door. Merlin and Arthur the donkeys can be seen at Amelia Trust Farm, Five Mile Lane, Barry.

BEACH CLEAN

FRIENDS of Barry Beaches will meet for their **March beach clean at Porthkerry beach on Sunday, March 27 at 3pm** (by the café).

The February beach clean at Jackson's Bay was a great success, with six bags of recycling and five bags of rubbish being collected.

Art in Penarth

APRIL being the garden season, the Washington Gallery at Penarth is showing a collection of art and crafts, all related to the outdoors.

Dibbers and plants, pots and tealights, ceramic tables, photographs and garden tableaux fused in glass all have been moved into the upper gallery for one month, beginning on April 1.

In the lower gallery will be artist Jane Maddox, with her spectacular display of nature-inspired paper displays.

This includes a rare butterfly species installation along the back wall.

Children's books winners

THE winners of our recent competition were Ieuan Brown, Cowbridge; Sarah John, Cefn Glas; Jon Foyle, Maendy, and Jacqui Evans, Talbot Green - congratulations to you all, and look out for more great GEM competitions!

'JOIN THE MACMILLAN CENTENARY CHALLENGE'

MACMILLAN Cancer Support which is celebrating its 100th birthday this year, has joined forces with **The GEM** to urge local companies to help raise funds during centenary year - by taking part in a **Centenary Challenge**.

Sue Pickin, fundraising manager, said: "It's a chance for businesses to help Macmillan build on all that we have been able to achieve so far. "There are 120,000 people living with cancer in Wales, and this figure is set to double by 2030.

"Macmillan aims to be there for patients and their families and carers throughout their cancer experience, helping to make life easier through medical, emotional, financial and practical support, but we cannot do this on their own."

The charity is challenging 100 businesses in the area to come forward and each pledge to raise £1,000 for Macmillan during 2011. Whether it's through staff taking part in events, encouraging support from customers or making a donation, there are many ways to get involved.

"Together, you and another 99 companies could raise £100,000 which could fund a Macmillan nurse for two years. Your company will get real business benefits (and have fun!) by taking part, engaging with the community and your staff, while at the same time helping to make a real difference to the lives of local people affected by cancer," Sue explained.

To sign up and to receive a fundraising pack, please contact Sue Pickin on 01656 867966 or email spickin@macmillan.org.uk.

Pub quiz helps out charities!



FOR the past two years, the Blacksmiths Arms at Llanmaes has been the venue for a Wednesday evening quiz night and the £1.50 entry charge raises approximately £1,500 each year, all of which is donated to local charities.

Last year, 'World at Play' received the £1,500 to help fund a third expedition to the orphanages of eastern Europe, leaving south Wales this June.

Pictured with Peter Emery (a Llanmaes resident and occasional quizmaster) is Steve Thomas, who represented and collected £300 last week for the local-based charity ValePlus.

Steve explained to those taking part in last Wednesday's quiz that the donation will assist in the work of ValePlus, which supports adults within our community with learning difficulties.

Charity walk for brain tumour foundation

THE Ed Evans Foundation is asking supporters to make time for a charity walk on **Sunday, May 1**.

The charity, set up in memory of Ed Evans, works to raise awareness of the plight of brain tumour patients, their families and friends.

Ed was brought up in Marcross and first experienced symptoms of a brain tumour in 2001. At the time he was training to be a diver with the

Royal Navy.

The tumour proved to be inoperable, and Ed embarked on a long series of treatments.

His experiences prompted him to set up the foundation in 2006, primarily to thank the hospital staff who had treated him during courses of chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Sadly, Ed lost his battle a year after setting up the foundation, but friends and family continue its work to this day.

This is the fourth year that the foundation has organised a charity walk, and supporters have the choice of opting for a long or short walk.

Both walks start from the Horseshoe Inn, Marcross, and the long walk leaves at 10am, and the short at 11am.

An entry form and further information is available from www.edevansfoundation.co.uk or by telephone from 01656 890217 or 01656 890309.

Mike gets top artist accolade from society

THE Cowbridge Art Society annual spring competition for the Keith Jones Trophy took place on Thursday and the subject this year was 'shadows'.

There were many entries and the standard was high. They were judged by Lloyd Rowe, who eventually chose a painting by Mike Davies.

The photograph shows Lloyd Rowe, Mike Davies and Keith James, who presented the trophy.



Charity ball

A GLAMOROUS masked ball is to be held at Dyffryn Gardens to raise funds for the Vale of Glamorgan Mayor's charities.

The evening will also include a charity auction, and the mayor, Coun Colin Osborne, has chosen East Vale Community Transport, Ashgrove School in Penarth and Llandough School Association, as the mayoral charities for his year of office.

The Mayor's Ball will take place on Saturday, April 9; tickets cost £30 each, including a four-course dinner and dancing until midnight to the Bridgend Big Band.

For more details, contact the Mayor's office on 01446 709301 for further information.

Walk a mile in her shoes!

MEN in Barry and the Vale are being encouraged to take part in a charity event named 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' organised in support of Atal-y-Fro, formerly Vale of Glamorgan Women's Aid.

The event is taking place on March 26 at 12 noon - 3pm, starting in King Square on Holton Road, Barry, with the walk itself taking place between 1pm and 1.30pm.

Participants will walk a mile wearing women's shoes, but they are also encouraged to fully dress in female clothing! Women are also invited to join the walk or to support male participants.

This year's event is the first such walk in Wales and aims to raise funds to

continue offering support to women and families in need.

On March 26, an information stall will be set up from 12 noon until 3pm. The charity will provide a limited amount of shoes available on the day (for a £5 donation) but individuals taking part are encouraged to bring their own foot wear.

Entry forms are available from Atal-y-Fro on info@atalyfro.org or 01446 744755. Entries on the day are also possible.

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June curtain-raising ceremony will welcome the Eisteddfod to the Vale

MORE details have been released about the scale of the project involved in bringing the National Eisteddfod to the Vale in 2012.

These emerged at last week's meeting of the Vale Council cabinet. The Eisteddfod will be hosted in the Vale between August 4 and August 11.

The report considered by the cabinet revealed that the site in Llandow will cover an area of 120 acres, and is in the ownership of a number of landowners.

The cost of staging the Eisteddfod is estimated at £3.6m of which 25 per cent is contributed by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).

The site would accommodate the Maes, as well as car parking, a caravan site, camping and the Youth Maes.

The report says that the event is seen as a major opportunity for the council, and as a result a working party has been established to liaise with Eisteddfod organisers in making arrangements.

It will also look at ways of raising the profile of the area.

One event that will be a 'curtain raiser' is a 'Proclamation Ceremony' which will be held on June 25 this year in either Cowbridge or Barry.

This ceremony will "formally announce" the intention to hold the Eisteddfod at Llandow in 2012 and will involve a public procession, as well as a formal event centred on an area around specially constructed Gorsedd Stones.

The report says that discussions are taking place about a suitable location but the event itself will be organised by the Eisteddfod.

A civic procession may also be involved. When it comes to 2012, the Council will be closely involved in developing a transport and access strategy for the site.

The report says that meetings have already been held but an "action plan" needs to be agreed in order to ensure safe arrangements for traffic and pedestrians during the Eisteddfod – and during the preparatory works that are required.

This might well involve Traffic Orders, road closures, identification of pedestrian routes and shuttle buses to the main towns and railway stations. Regional access issues will also be addressed.

The report says that the majority of the work to be carried out by the Vale Council will be within existing budgets and responsibilities. At some stage, however, the corporate cost of the council's activities will need to be identified.

The bulk of costs is met by the Eisteddfod themselves, and a contribution is made via the WLGA as the local authority contribution towards organising Eisteddfods at specific locations every year.

PROCLAMATION
Shortly before The GEM went to press, the National Eisteddfod committee issued a statement saying that the proclamation ceremony would take place in Barry on June 25, in the Memorial Gardens.

A spokeswoman said: "According to tradition the intention to stage an Eisteddfod must be announced at least one year and a day before the actual Eisteddfod."

"The Gorsedd of the Bards, along with representatives from local schools, institutions and societies, will march through the town centre on their way to the proclamation ceremony, which will be held at the Memorial Gardens in Barry."

She continued: "The Vale of Glamorgan's link with the Gorsedd of the Bards is, of course, a strong one."

"The Gorsedd of Bards is an association whose members consists of poets, writers, musicians, artists and individuals who have made a distinguished contribution to the Welsh nation."

"It also includes many well known figures in Welsh life, such as actors Ioan Gruffydd and Mathew Rhys, rugby players Gareth Edwards and Ieuan Evans, cricketer Robert Croft, Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, opera star Bryn Terfel and broadcaster Angharad Mair, to name only a few."

"The Gorsedd members are known as Druids, although it must be stressed that there is no connection between the association and druidism as a religion."

"The Gorsedd of the Bards was the creative invention of Iolo Morganwg, raised in Flemingstone in the Vale, one of Wales' most famous and eccentric scholars. He felt that it should be made known that the Welsh were the direct descendants of Celtic culture and heritage."

"Iolo Morganwg went as far as to link the Welsh with the ancient druids, who were the guardians of the Celtic civilisations before the Romans and the Saxons came to Britain. He was even known to have forged documents in a bid to substantiate his claims."

A prominent part will be played by girls from numerous Vale schools when they perform the Flower Dance for the first time.

Following an open

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

audition, 32 girls aged 8 – 10 have now been chosen from schools all across the Vale to perform the dance, and will soon start rehearsals under the supervision of

Anne Hughes and Rhian James who will tutor the dance.

During the ceremony, the first copy of the 'List of Competitions' will be presented to the

Archdruid T James Jones by the chair of the local executive committee, Dylan Jones, and once the list has been presented, its contents is made public, and the work of preparing for the competitions can start.

The spokeswoman said: "It's a colourful and dignified way of showcasing the Eisteddfod and increasing awareness about what will take place in the Vale in 500 days time."

Anyone wishing to get

involved with preparations for the 2012 National Eisteddfod should contact the office on 0845 4090 300 or by email on gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk. For more information go to www.eisteddfod.org.uk

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Sunday
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April

MOTHER'S DAY

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Sunday
3rd
April



FINDING THAT GIFT YOUR MOTHER WILL REMEMBER FOR YEARS TO COME!

THE array of gifts on offer for Mother's Day is greater than ever, so families should have no problem in finding something to delight their mother this April.

Of course, on Sunday, April 3 it is important that, if possible, family members visit their mum with a card and box of chocolates, and maybe follow that up with a Sunday lunch booked in one of the numerous pubs and restaurants in the Vale and Bridgend areas.

But nowadays the gift market has expanded, offering a huge range of gifts with that little bit extra in terms of sentiment, interest or excitement.

One new market, which has been partly generated by the flexibility of browsing on-line, is in finding a gift that is made individual to the person you love.

Personalised presents ensure you can have a particular set of words engraved or carved on the gift. There are staple 'personalisations' such as on stationery or on a card, but the choice is far wider than that.

Personalised gifts can include pieces of jewellery such as necklaces and lockets, picture frames which could include a photograph with a

sentimental flavour, crystal glasses, compact mirrors, champagne – even wooden cheeseboards in a heart-shape! – the list goes on and on.

Another popular surprise gift is a day out – a visit to the theatre, a pampering session at a health spa, a mini cruise on the River Severn or the Thames, or perhaps a National Trust day out at one of Britain's great castles or stately homes.

A flight from a local airfield taking in the Vale of Glamorgan's Heritage Coast and the Bristol Channel can provide an unforgettable day out.

Mini breaks over a weekend to west Wales, the west country, the Cotswolds are within easy striking distance of the Vale and Bridgend.

For those who want to combine a break with sight-seeing there are always travel companies that provide weekend packages to London, Paris or Dublin.

So there is no excuse! With a little thought, and a visit to a travel agent or a few moments browsing on-line, you could find the gift that your mother will remember for years to come.



The traditional flowers and chocolates - but what else is there on the market?

Gifts for keen gardener on Mother's Day

by HANNAH STEPHENSON

FLORISTS may be busy in the run-up to Mother's Day on Sunday, April 3, but with a little forethought you can buy your mum a present which will last much longer than a bouquet of flowers.

Garden centres, nurseries and online retailers are awash with Mother's Day

gifts, from soft-handled secateurs to pretty kneeling cushions, pampering hand creams, muscle-relaxing bath salts, specialist gloves plus a host of ornaments to remind her of you.

Even those on the tightest budget can bag a gift which will give pleasure for years to come. Your local area will have stores where you can pick up a shrub or fruit bush for just a pound or two, ranging from roses and escallonias to blueberries and potentillas. There's still time to sow some seeds, but if you want to give them as a gift, why not go for a range of beautifully packaged seeds including chilli, spring onion, basil, chives, mint, carrots and others, which come in lovely packets.

The seeds can all be grown in window boxes, pots or large containers on the smallest of patios or roof terraces.

Keen vegetable growers may want to extend their repertoire to more unusual veg, so why not buy your mother something she hasn't grown before, such as mushrooms?

You can buy a white button mushroom kit, which will also be easy to gift wrap, which has everything you need to grow mushrooms and could boost confidence to grow other, more difficult veg.

And finally, a well selected garden ornament can give years of pleasure – a search on-line or a visit to your local garden centre will provide a good selection.

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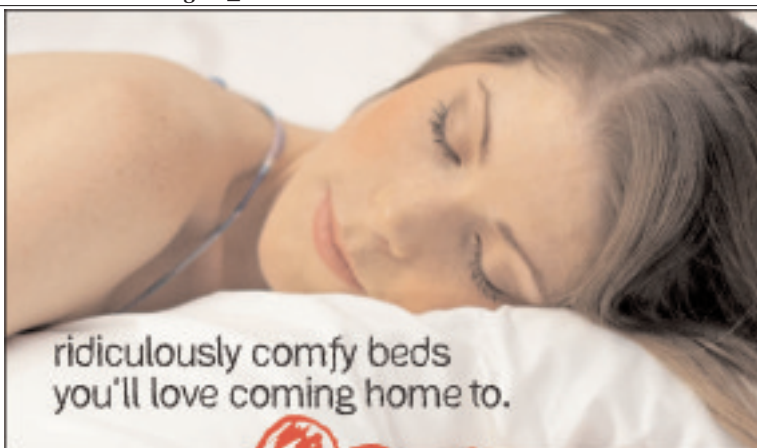
If anyone would like to pledge their support for the campaign, they can simply pop in to HSBC in Cowbridge and donate into the 'Helmand Account.'

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Mr Cairns offered to take part in the challenge, and was slotted in for an early morning run on the treadmill on a cold December Monday



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Fontygary Leisure Park welcomes the public to its 21st century facilities

FONTYGARY Leisure Park is a hidden gem – a refurbished 21st century entertainment and fitness complex open to the public all year round.

It is a whole new world once people turn off Fontygary Road in Rhose and drive through the archway into the park.

For Fontygary Leisure Park manager,

Jennie Flanigan, it is a source of amusement that Vale people still ask her whether they can use the wide range of facilities and attend the family events held weekly. "I tell them we are

open to the public – everyone is welcome to come! They think they have to be a member, but they don't."

The park comprises a leisure complex with state-of-the-art facilities, and holiday homes – all complete with stunning views across the Bristol Channel.

The leisure and fitness facilities include a cardiovascular room complete with rowers, bikes and cross trainers, a weights room, a jacuzzi, a sauna and an impressive pool with fun equipment like slides and waterbattles for the children.

Some people are intimidated by the idea of going to 'health and fitness' clubs and committing themselves to year-long memberships, but Jennie emphasised that at Fontygary everything is very relaxed.

"We have people aged from 16-85 who use the facilities."

"People don't have contracts to sign and can use them daily or monthly."

"Tying people in during the present climate is not fair and we aim to



The newly-refurbished bar.

be flexible and affordable – there are even student rates to help those who may be back in the area for a short period like a couple of months.

"The pool is open to the public seven days a week."

The leisure park involvement in the community has extended to aiding the recovery of injured soldiers and supporting Help for Heroes, a cause close to the heart of leisure park owner Tim McIlveen, who served in the army.

Jennie explained: "We have physio sessions in the pool for recuperating soldiers such as paratroopers back from Afghanistan."

"There were problems with the ceiling of the

pool at St Athan and we were pleased to help them out with a special deal."

Tim had the original idea for the 'Expedition to Helmand', in which St Mary Church villagers and other local volunteers combined to raise almost £30,000 for Help for Heroes.

The volunteers, including staff from the leisure park, walked to 'Helmand' on treadmills arranged by Tim.

Fontygary Leisure Park has been a part of the Vale community for more than 50 years and has a dedicated staff of 40 people to look after visitors.

But people should also be aware of the family events going on every week. Again people don't have to be members.

There's a family friendly bar with karaoke on Friday and Saturday evenings; a quiet bar downstairs where people can enjoy a drink and watch big sporting events on wide screen TV; and a cabaret lounge upstairs with Friday night bingo and

LEFT: There is plenty of fun for all the family at Fontygary!

Saturday night shows with a compere, disco and comedian.

There are also restaurants on site like the Raj Kinara and the China Bay Restaurant.

For those interested in buying a holiday home, staff in the sales office can provide all the necessary details, and holi-

day lets can be purchased in reception area.

So the message is clear: if you want somewhere to go and relax with the family, or get fit this year, Fontygary Leisure Park should be at the top of your list!

Fontygary Leisure Park

Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan

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LEADER SAYS THAT PAY LEVELS ARE INDEPENDENTLY REVIEWED

TWO LOCAL COUNCILS PAY OUT £1.5M TO 12 SENIOR OFFICERS

THE salaries and employment packages of just 12 officers working for Bridgend and Vale borough councils cost the taxpayers of those two areas a total of more than £1.5m in the financial year 2009-10.

Each council employs six people whose packages exceed £100,000. These include pension contributions from the councils as employers and also, in Bridgend's case, benefits in kind.

The total bill for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) for employing the six chief officers comes to £784,000, while in the Vale Council, the amount for the six is £818,000.

The figures, which have been compiled by the Taxpayers' Alliance from the council's own annual accounts, show that out of all the local authorities in Wales, Bridgend and the Vale are only behind Cardiff, which employs 15 people on that pay scale, and two other councils – Rhondda Cynon Taf and Torfaen, which employ seven.

Bridgend also had seven for part of the financial year 2009-10, for which these figures

prelate, but axed the Director of Corporate Services post in February 2010.

Bridgend and the Vale are on a par with Blaenau Gwent, Carmarthenshire, Flintshire, Neath Port Talbot, Newport, Pembrokeshire and Swansea, which all have six officers whose remuneration packages exceed £100,000.

But they are well ahead of many other councils which employ fewer on those pay scales. Ceredigion has only one while Anglesey, Conwy and Merthyr Tydfil have two and Powys has three. The rest have either four or five.

At Bridgend, two of the chief officers are paid salaries of £99,646 – which is below the threshold used by government and others to assess levels of chief officers' salaries being paid.

But in both cases, benefits in kind amounting to over £6,000 take their remuneration over that threshold.

Chief executive Jo Farrar is the top earner at the authority with a total package of £170,310. Her actual salary is £131,251 but there are further benefits in kind of £11,101 and pension contributions of £27,529. Her package decreased by 0.3 per cent over the

previous year with a drop in actual cash of £500.

Her opposite number at the Vale Council – John Maitland Evans – took a 10 per cent cut over this period, amounting to £20,000.

His package in 2008-09 was £199,181 but this fell to £179,126 for 2009-10 – the latest year for which these figures are available.

His package for the year is broken down as £146,417 salary and £31,480 pension. There are no benefits in kind.

The highest paid director in Bridgend is Hilary Anthony, who runs the Children's Directorate. Her package was worth £130,027 in 2009-10, made up of salary of £104,068, benefits in kind of £3,740 and pension of £21,854.

Louise Fradd, who is corporate director of Communities has a package worth £127,875, up 2.4 per cent on the previous year.

Her salary is £99,646 with benefits in kind of another £7,037 and pension contributions a further £20,926.

Abigail Harris, who

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

is director of Well Being, has a package worth £126,773.

Her salary was £99,646 with a further £6,182 in benefits in kind and £20,926 in pension contributions.

Two assistant chief executives also have packages in excess of £100,000.

Andrew Jolley, who is assistant chief executive for legal and regulatory, has a package of £116,139. This is made up of a salary of £88,458 with benefits in kind of £8,853 and pension contributions of £18,576.

Dave MacGregor, who is assistant chief executive for corporate development, had a 2.3 per cent increase, taking his package to £112,926. His salary was £86,582 with benefits in kind of £7,861 and pension contributions of £18,182.

In the Vale, most of the chief officers have packages of £129,000 plus.

Peter Evans, director of legal, public protection and housing, gets a salary of £105,280 with

package worth £123,850 – made up of salary of £101,647 and pensions contributions of £21,854.

All of these figures relate to the year 2009-10. The new figures for the financial year 2010-11, which ends at the beginning of April, are not yet available.

The GEM asked both councils to comment on their chief officers' remuneration packages.

Vale Council leader Gordon Kemp said that chief officers' salaries were reviewed by independent employment specialists in 2004.

He went on: "In the council's budget for 2010-11, we committed to reducing the salary bill for our senior managers by more than £500,000 in the next two years.

"Phase one has been implemented and this

saw the loss of seven senior manager posts at head of service and operational manager levels, a percentage cut that far exceeds the proportionate cut across the rest of the council's workforce."

He said that no chief officer received a national pay award in 2009-10 or subsequently. The pay freeze will continue for some time.

He added: "Councils are the most transparent organisations. Not all public bodies publish senior management salaries to the same extent as us.

"There needs to be a more even-handed way of handling senior salary issues across the public sector as a whole, which I readily accept should be in the public domain and subject to scrutiny."

A BCBC spokesman

had this to say:

"Bridgend County Borough Council features one of the smallest corporate management teams in Wales.

"We have three senior officers on a salary range of up to £104,000 and one on a salary range of up to £131,000.

"It is important to remember the size and scope of the council.

The authority is the largest employer in the area and provides vital services that have an effect on the lives of every resident.

"As such, the council has to compete with private business in attracting the best candidates who can undertake the responsibilities required by senior roles and ensure that local communities receive high quality services."

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Vale U3A group entertained by talk on islands

THE meeting of the Barry and Vale U3A in the Phillip John Room at Barry Central Library on March 7 was entertained by Mr G Beaudette, who gave an illustrated talk about the islands of the Bristol Channel.

He presented a very detailed history of the islands, interspersed with many fascinating personal anecdotes. Although familiar with the islands, many members left the meeting with an enhanced knowledge of their role in history.

The next meeting is a short walk, in conjunction with Valeways, meeting at the Sully Church. Contact Mr J Waud (01446-413328) for details.

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Welsh Assembly passes Stuart's Campaign law

AFTER nine years, the Cowbridge parents involved in Stuart's Campaign have finally seen one of their key arguments pass into law.

However, it will be another three years before their demand – that school buses be fitted with one seat belt per child – will be mandatory.

It was in December 2002 that a bus carrying Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupils crashed near Ystradowen. Stuart Cunningham-Jones, aged 12, died in the crash, and his death led to the formation of Stuart's Campaign.

The Safety on Learner Transport Measure was debated and voted upon by AMs this week, allowing Ministers to introduce new, stricter regulations to make the transport used to take pupils to and from school safer.

One amendment will require those providing dedicated school transport, to ensure that the vehicles used are fitted with seat belts for every passenger seat.

David Cunningham

Jones told The GEM: "It has been nine years since the accident, so this legislation has taken a long time – and there is still going to be a three-year period before it becomes mandatory in 2014.

"I do think that all the local authorities in Wales knew it was coming, so they could have made it part of their requirements already."

He added: "We do welcome the decision, but there are still other issues on school bus safety – such as supervision – to be tackled."

Vale AM Jane Hutt, who is a long term supporter of Stuart's Campaign, said: "The new school transport legislation in the National Assembly represents a step change for pupil safety on buses."

Plaid Cymru AM Chris Franks said: "Plaid welcomes this new law, which will improve safety on our school buses.

"It is also a tribute to the hard work of Stuart's campaign because, thanks to their efforts, it has ensured that children will be better protected when they travel to and from school."

SPRING is here



As the clocks go forward, the feel good factor returns!

THAT blessed time of year is almost upon us – when the clocks jump forward an hour, and we can say goodbye to the long, dark days of winter!

With lighter evenings and more sunshine, there's a feel-good factor that makes people want to make the most of the spring and summer months.

The clocks go forward on Sunday, March 27, and herald a time when people are enthusiastic to see tasks completed around the house and garden.

The official arrival of summertime is actually at 1am on March 27, so from next week the lighter evenings are here – make sure you make the most of them!

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Now is the time to have a check round your property and see what needs to be repaired or improved.

It is time to plan ahead and make your garden look special for the summer.

Help for those household spring improvements

AT this time of the year, householders feel the urge to spring clean – but if you are a full time worker time is of the essence.

Why not call in a domestic cleaning company to do your spring clean and give yourself time to relax!

Sometimes there are jobs around the house that a person might not be able to do because they don't have the necessary knowledge, are elderly, have a disability or simply don't have the time.

In these circumstances, remember there are local handymen who can provide the help you need.

The spring season is a popular time to build a

conservatory because it can be ready in time for summer in the same year. The householder gets a light bright space where, if the sun shines, even if it is windy outside, it remains nice and warm with views of the garden.

And then when winter comes, it serves as an extra room away from the noise of the television and lounge.

Spring is also a prime time for freshening up house interiors and decorating. Perhaps you have skirting boards that look drab or a door frame that needs a fresh coat of paint.

Remember that with services to your door someone who can do these tasks is just a telephone call away!

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Litter-free? Not any more..!

WITH reference to David T Jones's letter in last week's GEM about the litter-free lanes around the Vale, I have to agree that the litter picking teams had done a very good job of removing the litter from along the road verges around Llantwit Major.

So I was very dismayed today, when driving between Llantwit and Cowbridge, to see a huge amount of paper strewn all along the verge just past the DG Weaver garage.

There was so much

litter, in such a short stretch of verge, it was obvious someone had been out and dumped it all and the breeze had done the rest.

It's so maddening to see things like that especially as the litter picking teams had only covered that stretch of road just a few short weeks ago.

Now it looks as bad, if not worse, than ever.

It would be a really sorry state of affairs if we all littered in that way.

It just annoys me that some people don't seem to consider, or just don't care about, the consequences of their littering actions.

Carolyn Veal-Shaw,
Llantwit Major.

The biggest cut of all?

OUR Vale MP Alun Cairns rightly says that cuts in government expenditure must be made (The GEM, March 17) but the biggest possible cut of all receives no mention whatsoever.

I refer to the replacement of our 'ageing' nuclear submarine fleet.

Cutting out and cancelling any replacements, and scrapping or de-commissioning our current nuclear fleet would dwarf any other individual cuts.

Where does our MP stand on this? Why no mention of it? Come on Mr Cairns, let us have your views. The same goes for the Labour Party.

Christopher Short,
Barry

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Leaflet was NOT from Labour'

WE wish to make it clear that we did NOT send out a leaflet to tenants about the ballot that is being held to decide if council homes are transferred, or whether the tenancies remain with the council.

We are aware that many tenants may have already voted, but as the ballot papers do not have to reach the Electoral Reform Service until April 5, we wish to make it clear that the leaflet was not sanctioned by us, nor did we agree that a previous letter from the Labour councillors could be reproduced in that leaflet.

Our intention was simply to ask tenants to think very carefully before they voted, but we also made it clear that no matter what the outcome your Labour councillors would still be available should you need us to assist with any housing problems - whether or not the council retains ownership of your home or whether it is transferred to the Heritage Homes Housing Association.

However, we do believe that every tenant entitled to vote in this important ballot should do so, and make sure that their choice is taken into account.

Once again, if you believed that the information leaflet came from the Labour councillors, we are sorry but we had no control over its distribution or its content.

Brownwen Brooks,
(for Members of the Vale Labour group)

When the town had five cinemas!

IAM pleased that the 'saving the Theatre Royal' campaign is still continuing in Barry and it is unbelievable that the authorities could not find the necessary funding to save it.

Yet £5 million was found for a cinema in Swansea and £4.2 million for a cinema plus theatre in Wrexham! Barry used to have, when I was young, five picture-houses - Romilly Hall, Theatre Royal, Tivoli, Vince Palace (Thompson Street), and the Regal in Cadroxton.

I remember walking home through the black-out from the Theatre Royal after watching a double-bill of *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*!

Surely no town with the population that Barry has should be left without even one cinema! Mrs D E Coombes Herridge, Barry.

WALES IS RIGHT IN COMMITMENT TO FAIRTRADE

THE organisers and supporters of Fairtrade are to be congratulated for organising the event to highlight a fortnight of activities in Dinas Powys.

Dozens of villagers gathered in the centre of Dinas Powys with cotton flags with messages which focused on the need to pay Third World farmers decent prices for their products.

The flags were made up into bunting hundreds of yards long. The aim is to create a record to make up the world's longest bunting and to get into the Guinness Book of Records.

It was great to participate in this event. I was also present at the event in the Senedd in Cardiff Bay highlighting

Fairtrade. There a Chilean farmer spoke of his thanks to the people of Wales.

Wales was officially the first Fairtrade Nation in the world, with a huge amount of Fairtrade products now available in shops across the Vale.

Choosing to buy a Fairtrade product means you are paying for a fair deal for some of the poorest farmers and workers in the world.

Even in these challenging times we need a Welsh government that is strong and ambitious.

We will not allow austerity measures to beat our ambitions for Wales as a Fairtrade nation.

Chris Franks
(Assembly Member, South Wales Central)

Litter problem and schools

YOUR correspondent makes a good point about the litter around schools (GEM letters, March 17).

It is no coincidence that this increases during term time and the problem is endemic. The amount of rubbish scattered around one Barry school is appalling.

Protests to headteachers, councillors and community officers are usually treated with indifference. (Name and address supplied)

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BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...
Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

'RICH DIVERSITY OF BUSINESS'

Industrial estate is the beating heart of Bridgend's economy

TO get an idea of the diversity of business in the Bridgend area, the best way is simply to drive around the Bridgend Industrial Estate. It takes quite some time, as the long, wide roads that intersect the

estate stretch out into the far distance. The estate, which was created from part of the massive Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) that played a vital role in the war effort in 1939-1945, is simply so much bigger than any passer-by could imagine. It is, almost goes without saying, a

major employer in the county borough, and as such makes a huge contribution to the economic life of the borough. It benefits from its proximity to the M4, and it means that customers can get to the estate quickly without any of the traffic hassle involved in getting to shops in some towns and cities.

The banking sector certainly recognises its importance, with several branches of the big high street chains on site in the administrative area.

The range of services and outlets that

trade on the estate is staggering, with local entrepreneurs playing their trade next door to national chains or major manufacturing companies. High-tech companies are working at the outer edges of research and development, while more 'bread and butter' services are also in demand.

The facts and figures about the estate are impressive. In total, the estate extends to an estimated three million square feet of commercial space on approximately 300 acres. There is traditional factory

space, distribution centres, and high quality office developments. And there is also a strong retail presence on the estate, with many customers now well aware that the Bridgend Industrial Estate has some of the nearest retail operations around.

One 'new kid on the block' is Town and Country, still trading in the town centre, but now investing in space on the industrial estate to expand its business.

The owner, Paul Evans, told The GEM: "After 28 years in Bridgend, we opened a new operation here on the estate this month. "Our new bedroom furniture showroom gives us a chance to let people see the range of stock we have available - more than 1,600 fitted bedrooms!" He added: "We have great confidence in the Bridgend Industrial Estate and it is a great place to launch a new venture!" Much more settled on the estate is the

FRF car dealership - a landmark operation that benefits from being highly visible as motorists travel along the main road. The site has always been strongly associated with Vaushall, and FRF are the latest company to offer that company's vehicles to local motorists.

However, there have been changes, as FRF's new car sales manager, Mark James,

explained: "In the last 12 months, we have become dealers for Chevrolet and Mazda - as well as Vaushall." Taking on extra dealerships is a sign that trading conditions are on the up, and the company is taking advantage of the wide catchment area of the estate.

Mark added: "We have regular customers who travel from the Vale or from Monsey,

because the road links are good." The estate is so large that a number of different agents handle the properties, and Cooke & Arkwright look after the Central Park section. For many outlets on the estate, the barrier between 'trade and retail' customers is a thing of the past.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)



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BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...

Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

Good road links give estate a flying start in the business race



ABOVE and LEFT:
The estate offers plenty of modern buildings that are extremely well equipped and able to meet the needs of today's businesses.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

John Jones of Cooke & Arkwright recently let a 4,000 sq ft unit to a new arrival, @turf garden store.

He said: "The new unit gives @turf the prominence to attract new business, as well as servicing existing clients."

"We are continuing to sell and let units in a difficult market and only four units now remain at Central Park."

The managing director of @turf is David Pearce, who has relocated from Pencoed. He said: "The move to Central Park has put us in a good location, with easy access to the M4."

Huw Davies, of Solar Sunshades, has seen the business expand over his 12 years on the estate, from employing 12 staff at the start, to a total of 25 now.

The transport links are important to Huw too, because he looks after customers from Pembroke Dock in west Wales, to Swindon in the east, and even Poole in the south-east!

Meanwhile, back at his Bridgend base, his showroom and good parking makes it easy

for customers to see what he is offering.

At Dougfield Plumbers' Supplies Ltd, branch manager Gareth Richards also felt that the estate had definitely been a good place to trade from.

He said: "We have been here for 14 years

and have been able to take advantage of the good road links to develop the business.

"We now serve more than one market with a bathroom showroom, and a heating supplies area, and offer a warm welcome to trade and retail customers alike."



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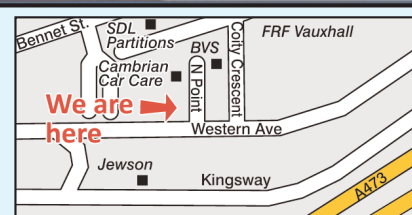
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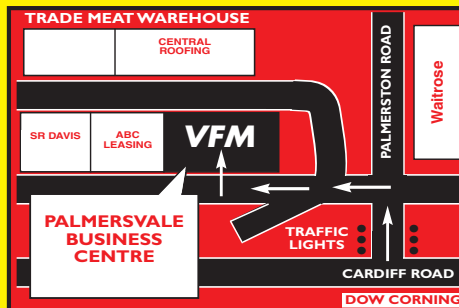
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LARGE PACKS AVAILABLE FOR HOME FREEZING • MARINATED MEATS • CHICKEN

Submarine is an original, inventive piece of work

THE name Richard Ayode may mean little, but fans of Channel 4 sitcom *The IT Crowd* will know him as that show's uber-geek Moss.

What you may not know is that Ayode is also a director, having directed (as well as starred in) hilarious TV series *Garth Marenghi's Darkplace*, and music videos for the likes of Kasabian and the Arctic Monkeys. He now makes his first big screen outing with *Submarine*.

Based on the novel by John Dunthorne and filmed partly in Barry and Penarth, it follows 15-year-old Oliver (Craig Roberts) and the stresses of his life; his aim to keep his mother

(Sally Hawkins) out of the grasp of sleazy dance teacher Graham (Paddy Considine) and his love for the seemingly-untamable Jordana (Yasmin Paige)...

Given that most trips to the cinema are to watch films that have the air of predictability, be it action films that place no emphasis on story, or romantic comedies that mine the same story strands, it is all the more refreshing when you get to sit down and watch something that dares to be original and inventive.

It is even more well-coming when that piece of work is British, boxes that *Submarine* ticks with aplomb. Put bluntly, this is a truly wonderful film that has bags of wit and charm to spare.

Much of the credit for this goes to Ayode, who has adapted the screen-

play from the source novel as well as directing, and he doesn't put a foot wrong in either role.

The film's energy and pace comes from the direction that mines Ayode's love of French New Wave cinema as well as his own idiosyncratic visual style. His ability to zero in on the minutiae of teenage life is excellent, but it is the use of different film stocks to give the film a unique look, as well as clever editing techniques, that really highlight his prowess behind the camera.

Ayode wears his influences broadly, but turns them into something that feels wholly his own, with the comparisons to American director Wes Anderson (*The Royal Tenenbaums*) deserved. He shows a level of confidence that is rare for a first outing, and it pervades every frame of the film.

The casting is pitch-perfect as well, with newcomer Craig Roberts absolutely outstanding as the lead. He carries the

film with an air of maturity that is at odds with his youthful appearance, but nails the 'old-before-his years' Oliver. It is a stunning performance from the actor and one that fits the film's tone beautifully.

Opposite him, Yasmin Paige is a perfect counterpoint to Oliver's character, the mischievous nature of the character being realised wonderfully well by Paige's performance. They make for the most unsuitable, yet wonderfully matched coupling, and offer a subtle tenderness.

The supporting cast all excel, from Noah Taylor and Sally Hawkins as Oliver's parents, undergoing a period of doubt in their marriage, to Paddy Considine's turn as a former flame of Oliver's mother turned new age guru, which could have slipped into caricature, but which is held up well by the actor.

However, it is Ayode who is the real star of the show here, his sub-

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

lime direction and well-measured script allowing the performers to deliver. It is a highly auspicious start for the director, and *Submarine* is easily one of the finest British films to have made it out of the blocks in the last few years.

VERDICT – An absolutely wonderful film, *Submarine* heralds the talents of writer/director Richard Ayode and its top-notch cast, in particular Craig Roberts and Yasmin Paige. With extra points awarded for its use of local locations, *Submarine* is an inventive, original and mesmerising piece of work. *Essential viewing.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: The best Woody Allen or Wes Anderson comedies.

Submarine is on general release now.

A MESSAGE FROM HOLLY

Cats Protection, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9UJ
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Email: bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk

Hi, I am Holly and I am the longest staying cat at the Cats Protection Centre, Bryncethin.

I spend my days dreaming of a cosy home with that special someone to love and care for me. My owner gave me up because she was no longer able to give me the attention I deserve. We were both distraught at being separated but I know she had my best interests at heart.

As I see so many people each day, I have found it difficult to bond with one person. I am waiting for that special someone who will see



my inner beauty and want to make me part of their lives.

I have not lived with other cats before, so would need careful introductions and lots of space to get to know each other. Please make my dreams come true by offering me a new home.

Holly

WHAT'S ON - In brief

Barry gig

BARRY 60s covers band Vinyl Eyes will play the park Hotel on Saturday (March 26), with the music of the Beatles, Stones, Kinks, and others.

Tax help

TAX Help for Older People will hold an advice surgery at Pencoed Library on Wednesday, April 6. To book an appointment or to use our helpline, telephone 0845 6013321.

Dinas play

PARISH Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys at 7.30pm nightly from March 31-April 2, Dinas Powys Players

present Lord Arthur Savile's Crimes, a comedy by Constance Cox, adapted from a story by Oscar Wilde. For tickets, telephone 02920 512868 or 02920 512945.

Mother's Day service

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth is holding a special family service on Mothering Sunday, April 3 at 10am.

The worship will include items suitable for all ages and there will be flowers for all the mums and other ladies. Refreshments will be served afterwards – all are welcome.

MG

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D622.

● The rollover, which now stands at £2,000, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 676688.

● £10: 290487.

422069; 658802; 198849;

456815; 856771; 271741;

316201; 605599; 842693;

138788; 402449; 322243;

628838; 284699; 533883;

140992; 202033; 885800;

691172.

● £5: 89010; 555243;

866952; 824259; 485810;

296246; 209327; 593748;

558032; 263536; 237737;

CCTV arrests

CCTV, under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with four arrests and the location of two missing people in the week ending March 20.

It contacted the police on 33 occasions, with two arrests made at Holton Road, Barry for alleged shoplifting.

One arrest was made concerning a violent assault at Barry Island, while another was made over possession of drugs at Island Road, Barry. In addition, two missing people were found on Holton Road, Barry.

YSGOL GYMRAEG SANT CURIG NEWS

Pupils' donations to the Red Cross Japan appeal



Jack, Tom and Sophie.

PUPILS and staff from Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig were in a very generous mood last week, contributing to two very worthwhile causes.

First, Jack Richards, eight years old and his brother Tom, six, and sister Sophie, four, were so moved by the tragedy in Japan that they raided their own piggy banks and brought in their pocket money to donate to the Red Cross appeal.

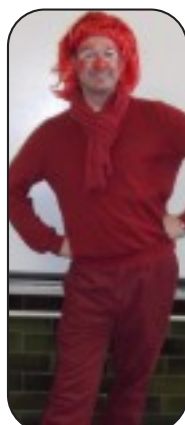
Headteacher Mrs Owen said: "It's so lovely that children at the school once again put the needs of others in front of their own."

"I thought it was a sincere gesture and we are planning a host of fund raising activities to support this appeal in the forthcoming weeks."

The school also held a competition to see how many red items children and staff could wear for Red Nose Day.

The school raised almost £400 and year-6 teacher, Mr Matthew McAvoy, was the winner managing to keep 11 items of clothing on for the whole day!

Sisters Shevaun and Georgia Thomas Peters bought chocolates and held a school raffle, which also raised £50 towards the Comic Relief appeal.



Matthew McAvoy.

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Following in the footsteps of Henry V and Admiral Lord Nelson



Kymin towards Monmouth.

FOURTEEN ramblers and dogs Jodie and Jas joined Joy for a trip up to Monmouth, where the Rivers Monnow and Wye converge.

The Normans were settlers until 1250, but this border town had two famous sons as King Henry V and Charles Rolls a motoring pioneer, who with Henry Royce created the Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, were both born there.

Passing the Monmouth Rowing Club, the group headed across the Wye Bridge and climbed to the Kymin, at around 800 feet above sea level.

The group stopped for morning coffee in front of the Roundhouse, a white tower similar to a folly with a battlement roof, constructed in 1794 and paid for by the gentlemen of Monmouth from the Kymin Club.

Vice Admiral Nelson with Lady Hamilton visited Monmouth in 1802 and enjoyed not only the views, but

also breakfast at the Roundhouse.

He, like the group, visited the nearby Naval Temple, constructed in 1800 after the British naval victory at the Battle of the Nile in 1798. It recognised 16 British Admirals who had victories at sea and their names are on the building which is topped by the figure of Britannia.

Joining Offa's Dyke path, they reached Upper Redbrook and on to the village of Newland.

Newland dates back to Edward I and the 13th century All Saints Church, also known as the 'Cathedral of the Forest' dominates the village.

In Lower Redbrook, the copper works used ore brought from Cornwall and was worked until 1740 when it closed down.

At Redbrook, the group took advantage of seats in the park near the river bridge crossing to the Boat Inn, which is on the Welsh side of the Wye, before joining the Wye Valley Walk.

Contact Pam on 029 2021 9102 for further information about the group.

JOY STRANGWARD

Accolade for Age Concern

AGE CONCERN Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan has been awarded £25,000 in recognition of its "outstanding contribution" to improving health and social care among over-60s in the region.

The charity beat more than 400 organisations from around the UK to become one of 10 winners of this year's GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) IMPACT Awards, run in partnership with health think-tank The King's Fund.

The citation said that Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan outshone other entrants on the

strength of its positive impact on the lives of older people, many of whom are isolated, physically frail and living in poverty.

Innovative projects include a placement advisor's scheme, whereby advisors work with older people who might need to move from hospital into a care home, and a counselling service and a befriending scheme to reduce isolation.

Lisa Weeks, third sector programme manager at The King's Fund, said: "The charity thoroughly deserves its award. Not only has it demonstrated outstanding innovation, it has responded to local need and made a vast impact

on the quality of life for so many older people in the region.

"It is supported by hundreds of volunteers and operates on a tight budget, yet still helps thousands of people a year."

Jeff Hawkins, the chief executive of Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, said: "I am very proud that our work is recognised as having a positive impact, locally, on the lives of many older people."

One overall winner – to be announced at a ceremony in London on May 12 – will receive an additional £10,000 for outstanding work in addressing needs of their service users.

LOOKING INTO TIMES PAST IN PORTHCAWL THROUGH HOLIDAY-MAKERS' MEMORIES!

THE photographs on these two pages come from one woman's remarkable collection of postcards (see facing page for details).

The images show the way that visitors to the town chose to remember Porthcawl, and also how photographers kept looking for a new view of the town (as in the aerial view below).



The harbour is on the right, with Salt Lake on the left, although the exact date is unclear.



ABOVE and BELOW: Coney Beach, looking decidedly rocky!



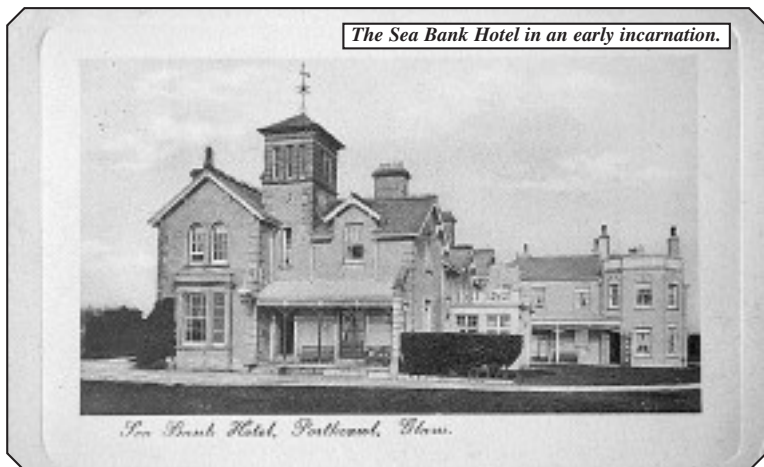
ABOVE: A leafy scene in Newton village.



ABOVE: Rocks at Sker Bay.



ABOVE: This particular Porthcawl bay is not often featured on postcards!



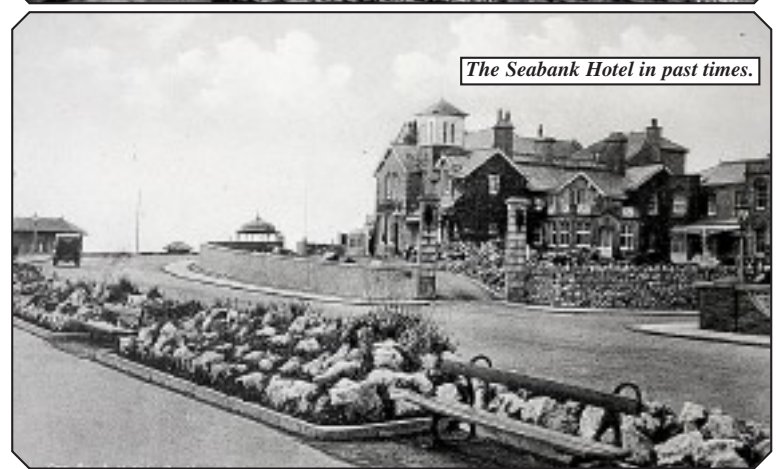
The Sea Bank Hotel in an early incarnation.

POSTCARDS THAT TELL A STORY ABOUT PORTHCAWL'S DAYS AS A SEASIDE RESORT

THE postcards featured on this page are from a remarkable collection built up by Mrs Muriel Parkes.

None of her postcards were bought in Porthcawl. She found them all on her travels, always stopping off in second hand shops and collectors' fayres and buying anything that had been sent from the town.

Here at The GEM, we are unsure whether the postcard (right) was meant to imply that refined ladies came to Porthcawl looking for a husband!



Unfortunately, we have no clue as to what occasion this card has recorded!

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

School keeps its place at the badminton top table



Under-13 girls won the team trophy.

BADMINTON

THE Welsh Schools Top School badminton tournament was held at the Flash Leisure Centre, Welshpool, in Powys.

Both boys and girls teams had qualified for these finals by winning the South Wales Championships in October 2010.

The girls were drawn in a pool of three with Brynhyfryd from north Wales and Y Pant from Talbot Green. The team of four play singles at number 1 seed and number 2 seed, and doubles with number 3 or 4 seed plus number 1 seed and number 3 or 4 seed plus number 2 seed. This means that the two strongest players do not play doubles together.

v Brynhyfryd

Jessica Oliver won singles 21-7; Jordan Carpenter won singles 21-3; Lois Palmer and Nia Patal won doubles 21-7; Jessica and Lois won doubles 21-4; Jordan and Nia won doubles 21-11. An excellent 5-0 win in their first match.

v Y Pant

Jessica lost 11-21; Jordan won 21-11; Lois and Nia won 21-7; Jessica and Lois lost 9-21; Jordan and Nia won 21-19. This was a close match, winning 3-2 and put the team into the final versus the winner of the other group of three.

In the final against Castell Alun School, Mold in north Wales, the girls were up against three girls in the Welsh Squad and lost 4-1 with all matches in double figures.

Jessica lost 21-13; Jordan lost 21-14; Lois and Nia lost 21-18; Jessica and Lois lost 21-10; Jordan and Nia won 21-18.

Overall, the girls will be proud of becoming the second-best school in Wales in their first attempt.

In the boys competition, one school did not turn up, St Albans from Pontypridd, so the format changed to one group of five, with everybody playing each other. The boys play in the same format as the girls.

v Alun School, Mold

Rhys Mallows won singles 21-15; Will Painter won singles 21-16; James Hendy and Matthew Goodlad won doubles 21-10; Rhys Mallows and James Hendy lost doubles 17-21; Will Painter and Matthew Goodlad won doubles 21-18.

Cowbridge therefore won 4-1.

v Cardiff High School

Rhys lost 9-21; Will won 21-7; James and Matthew lost 8-21; Rhys and James won 21-18; Will and Matthew lost 20-21; Cowbridge therefore lost 3-2.

v Hawarden High School

Rhys lost 18-21; Will won 21-7; James and Matthew lost 8-21; Rhys and James won 21-18; Will and Matthew lost 20-21; Cowbridge therefore won 4-1.

v Brynhyfryd

Rhys lost 18-21; Will won 21-11; James and Matthew lost 19-21; Rhys and James lost 16-21; Will and Matthew won 21-16; Cowbridge therefore lost 3-2.

The team finished third overall in bronze medal position. Team captain Rhys Mallows was disappointed as they had a great opportunity to win the tournament but lost two crucial games by one and two points respectively.

Well done to both teams for continuing to put the name of Cowbridge Comprehensive School on the map in badminton. The school competed in the very first one in 1977, and still have the same coach!

HOCKEY

The year-8 hockey team played in the county preliminary tournament against

St Cyres and Plasmawr.

In the first game against Plasmawr it was so-so possession throughout the game, with some great attacking play by Rosa Hartman and in defence by player of the match Millie Green. With 35 seconds to go, Plasmawr scored to make the final score 1-0.

Plasmawr went on to beat St Cyres 2-0 and Cowbridge then played St Cyres with Rosa Hartman scoring two goals and Megan McNamee the third goal in the first half.

In the second half, Millie Green scored as did St Cyres, making the final score 4-1 to Cowbridge.

The team consisted of defence: Hannah Lee, Shellie May, Caitlin Jones, Sally Gambling and Millie Green, Emily Davies and Lily Morris, Megan McNamee, Hannah Lister-Sims, Brooke-Langton Cryer, Alice Tudor and attack Ellie Eddy Williams, Evie Williams, Rosa Harman and Laurie Thomas.

Well done!

FOOTBALL

YEAR-7 played Cardiff High School in the final of the City of Cardiff and Vale Schools Bluebirds Cup on the Bear Field at Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

The game started badly for the team with two goals conceded in the first five minutes of the game. Playing with plenty of possession unfortunately did not pay dividends, as the away goalkeeper and the woodwork saved the day. While it was attacking, the team conceded another two goals before half time.

4-0 down at half time, year-7s luck in front of goal needed to change. This happened early on with two goals from Jay Mann, but again a slip at the back let in two goals. With a goal from Daniel Bear, at least the team won the second half.

Playing catch-up is difficult, as the boys found out, but all players gave their best and now look forward to a friendly against year-8 on the astroturf.

GYMNASTICS

THE Welsh Schools Floor and Vault Championships were held at the Welsh Institute of Sport at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff, where the school entered five teams.

The under-19 girls team finished fifth overall, competing against many Welsh squad and British squad members. Natasha Johnston was top scorer with 16.2.

The under-19 boys team finished in bronze medal position behind a very strong Barry Comprehensive School team. Jason Sami, year-10, was top scorer on the vault with 8.8.

The under-19 mixed team finished in silver medal position behind an excellent Caldicot School of Gwent. The team suffered an injury to Caitlin Allin in warm up. Lili Evans was top scorer with 9.3 in the vault.

The under-13 boys team finished in silver medal position to Whitchurch Comprehensive School by less than a full mark. Outstanding for Cowbridge was Tom Lucas with an overall mark for floor and vault of 17.0.

The under-13 girls team came out top of the class on the day to be crowned Welsh Schools Floor and Vault Champions.

This was the first time that the school team at this age group had won the Welsh Championships.

The girls will now go on to represent Wales as a region against all the home nations in Stoke on Trent on May 7 and 8.

Mia Sexton, returning from injury, led the girls home with a top combined score of 17.9.



Under-13 boys.

Individual Scores

Under-19 Girls	Floor	Vault	Total
Kim Dreyer	6.7	8.8	15.5
Annabel Smith	7.1	8.5	15.6
Emmy Bevan	6.3	8.6	14.9
Natasha Johnson	7.4	8.8	16.2
Natasha Sahonte	6.1	9.1	15.2

Under-19 Boys	Floor	Vault	Total
Danny Price	7.8	8.7	16.5
Liam Martin	6.6	Injured	/
Kester Irwin	6.4	8.6	15.0
Jack Scott-Coombes	6.8	8.6	15.0
Jason Sami	8.0	8.8	16.8

Under-19 Mixed	Floor	Vault	Total
Dylan Layzell	8.0	9.2	17.2
Tobias Swann	7.5	8.9	16.4
Rebecca Thomas	8.0	8.8	16.8
Lili Evans	8.1	9.3	17.4
Caitlin Irwin	Injured	Injured	/

Under-13 Boys	Floor	Vault	Total
Tom Lucas	8.0	9.2	17.2
Tom Trotman	7.2	8.8	16.8
Hywel Williams	7.0	8.2	15.2
Charlie Martin	7.1	8.4	15.5
Cai Irwin	7.6	8.4	16.0

Under-13 Girls	Floor	Vault	Total
Jasmine Stephens	8.3	8.8	17.1
Jordan Stephens	8.3	8.3	16.6
Mia Sexton	8.8	9.1	17.9
Bridgette Walters	8.6	8.5	17.1
Ellie Medlicott	7.0	/	/
Stephanie Sanders	/	8.3	/

Inter-County Event

THE Welsh Schools Inter County Tumble and Vault Championships were held at the Welsh Institute of Sport at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff.

Four pupils represented the school and county at these Welsh Championships and helped the county to retain the overall cup when they tied with South East Wales.

Under-13 girls: Jasmine Stevens (year-7), and her team won the team trophy.

Under-13 boys: Tom Trotman (year-8), was an outstanding all rounder who helped the county to bronze medal position.

Under-19 girls: Lili Evans (year-9), and her team won the team trophy.

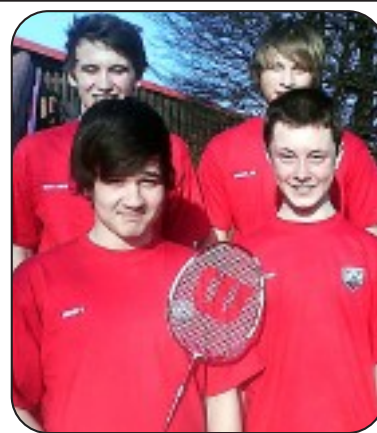
Under-19 boys: Dylan Layzell (year-13), in his final year representing the county, finished with a team silver. Dylan has been a great servant to the school and county teams over many years. Thank you to him for his support and loyalty.

Individual Scores

	Floor	Floor	Floor	Vault	Vault
	1	2	3	1	2
Lili Evans	8.8	3.2	9.1	9.4	9.6
Dylan Layzell	6.5	8.6	7.7	9.4	9.3
Tom Trotman	8.3	7.4	8.0	8.7	9.3
Jasmine Stephens	8.2	8.7	8.6	9.4	9.2

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Welsh schools bronze medal.



Welsh schools runners-up.



Welsh schools runners-up.

Dinas Powys FC news round up

Girls under-12s

CONGRATULATIONS to Gwennan Davies, Jess Thompson and Georgia Roberts

Powell for being selected to attend the Welsh development squad run in conjunction with the South Wales girls league, Cardiff City and the FAW; possible future Welsh caps in the making.

Well done to the under-12s for beating Troedryhiw 2-0.

No mean feat, as Troedryhiw had gone 18 games unbeaten this season until they were outdone on the day by a quickly improving Dinas Powys girls under-12s

team.

Also, best of luck in their quarter-final tie on March 27, at Bryn Y Don against Valleys United in the SWGL cup.

Girls under-14s

CONGRATULATIONS to Ella Hatherill, Chloe Jones and Emily Hill for making the Cardiff and Vale under-14 squad.

Well done also to Kelsey Murray and Ellie Wenger for being put on standby for possible selection.

Congratulations to the under-14s for their 1-0 win against Caerphilly.

A fine run of four games unbeaten now puts them 12th in the league, a fine achievement after a very difficult start in what is their first season on full size pitches.

Local choir to appear at Tenovus concert in Llandaff Cathedral

THE South Wales Male Choir, which draws many of its members from Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, Barry and Penarth, will be singing at the Tenovus Spring Concert in Llandaff Cathedral on Thursday, April 14, at 7.30pm.

The concert will also feature The Tenovus Sing For Life Choir, a remarkable group of people who have been affected by cancer.

The South Wales Male Choir will be conducted by musical director Elaine Robins, the piano accompanist will be Sian Davies and the organist Terry Gilmore-James.

Choir member Terry Rooney from Llantwit Major told The GEM:

"There are 110 members in the choir, many from the Vale, some from Cardiff and Gwent – and those in exile in Bristol, Oxford and Wantage.

"The choir was formed in 1982 and its first president was Lord George Thomas of Tonypandy.

"For a payment of

£100, we will provide five top price tickets, which are £12 each, and with the extra donation your business details will be printed prominently in the concert programme."

The concert is to support one of Wales' great causes and to purchase tickets, people should

contact: the choir secretary, John Rees Davies, on 01446 746387; Terry Rooney on 01446 792417.

Tickets are also available at Chris Williams Opticians, Boverton Road, and on the door at Llandaff Cathedral.

Council homes transfer: 'TENANTS CONSULTED'

I MUST correct the letter from Coun Bertin in your letters page last week. Every secure tenant of the Vale Council has received a formal consultation document, which contains all the details of what would happen to their homes and services if the transfer goes ahead. Very importantly, it

also gives all the details of what would happen if the homes stay with the council.

The comparison clearly states that the council would not have the resources available to bring homes up to the full Welsh Housing Quality Standard, as required by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Also, the council would not have the resources to invest in the estates in Gibbonsdown and Buttrills that suffer from crime and anti-social behaviour and need to be remodelled to help solve these problems.

Copies of both the council's and Heritage Coast Homes' business plans have been available for scrutiny by all Vale councillors and have been laid out side-by-side in cabinet papers and full council agendas.

Obviously some councillors are not reading these documents.

The promises made in the council's formal consultation document would be made legally binding on Heritage Coast Homes if the transfer goes ahead.

Four tenants, four

council nominees and four independent people with relevant skills and experience sit on the shadow board of Heritage Coast Homes and would be committed to delivering the promises made in the formal consultation document.

Heritage Coast Homes would be regulated by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Every piece of literature produced by the Vale Council as part of its formal consultation with tenants on the proposed transfer to Heritage Coast Homes has been checked by specialist lawyers, the independent tenant advisor open communities and by the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure it is accurate and factual.

I would urge all our tenants to read the Formal Consultation Document, ask any questions they may have and make their own minds up about the proposal and to make sure they use their vote.

Coun Paul Church (Cabinet member for housing and community safety)

Beating the bounds around Llanblethian, 55 years ago



In a recent issue of The GEM, Betty Alden of the Cowbridge History Society revealed plans for an exhibition, scheduled for July, which will focus on Cowbridge in the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

She also asked residents if they had any suitable photographs or memorabilia..

Betty dropped this fascinating photograph into The GEM office and said: "We have been loaned a number of photographs by Mrs Remy Lloyd Jones and this one, taken in the 1950s, shows the 'Beating the Bounds' ceremony on Rogation Sunday in Llanblethian. We wonder if anyone recognises the children." Betty added that the society welcomes any further items.

She can be contacted on 01446 773373.

Cowbridge bridge clubs round-up

THE latest results are as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club, Monday, March 14: First, Joan Jenkins and Jane Brook 61.25 per cent; second, Mary Moore and John Beard, 57.19; third, Anne Hughes and John Edwards, 55.94; third, John Henson and Geoff Tinkler, 55.94; fifth, Teri Pollard and Sara Bartlett, 54.06; sixth, Ray Smith and Gwynne Maddox, 53.13.

Adrian Thomas, the president of the Welsh Bridge Union and member of the 2011 Welsh team who won the 'Camrose' Cup against

England, Ireland and Scotland, was a guest for the evening.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club, Tuesday March 15: First, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey, 67.50 per cent; second, Luba Ashworth and Anne Thomas, 57.00; Pat and Brian Swain 56.82; fourth, Ann Miller and Judy Springett 53.00; fifth, Glenda Roberts and Amy Owen

52.00; sixth, Marian East and Pauline McAllen 50.00; sixth, Mary Thomas and Dennis Barker 50.00. **BS**

Older People's Forum meets Crossroads Carers group

RENE GANNON, vice-person of the Older People's Forum, and Winnie Davies, an executive member, were invited to give a presentation at a meeting of the Penarth Crossroads Carers Group to explain how the 'Strategy for Older People' worked, and how the carers group could become part of the forum.

Crossroads scheme in the Vale was set up in 1987 by Clair Mallia and Dr Mike Robinson, a Dinas Powys GP, who had recognised a lack of dementia service in this area.

The scheme employs a team of 40 care workers who provide care in the home, take clients out socially, run the day centres at Bryneithin and Gardenhurst, and facilitate social groups in Barry and the rural Western Vale.



Rene Gannon and Winnie Davies with Carers from Crossroad Care in the Vale.

In providing these services, they aim to support family carers and give them a break from their caring role. **WD**



Set in grounds of in excess of an acre...

A rare opportunity to acquire a detached house which also comes with a separate self contained detached annexe/bungalow, and all set in a wide range of outside garden space. The house is detached and has 6 bedrooms, 4 receptions, 4 bathrooms and a small conservatory. The bungalow has 3/4 bedrooms, 1/2 receptions, a kitchen, a bathroom and shower room.

Aderyn, Nurston (Nr Rhoose)

There are substantial parking facilities, mature garden with orchard, family garden, courtyard, 60' workshop, possible kennel/cattery space and the plot is exceptionally private, secluded yet situated within 20 minutes of the M4.

An ideal opportunity for Bed & Breakfast (currently licensed), Kennels, Nursing Home - subject to planning/change of use etc.

Please contact Andrew Fenton on 07847 888750 to arrange a viewing, we are available at a time to suit you.



PRICE £595,000

Chris Davies

chris-davies.co.uk

01446 711900

More executive properties wanted throughout the Vale – Call Andrew 07847 888750

BRYNCETHIN MINI AND JUNIORS ROUND-UP

Under-8s team are involved in two thrilling local encounters

UNDER-8s

BRYNCETHIN travelled away to face tricky games against Bridgend Athletic and Porthcawl.

With all three teams were sporting good size squads we were in for some entertaining games. **Bryncethin 6 Porthcawl 2**

Porthcawl won the toss and were on the attack straightaway. A solid defensive display by Bryncethin meant they were able to hold firm and exert enough pressure to turn possession over.

A quick tap gave Bryncethin the advantage and they were able to score in the corner.

Porthcawl then came back into the game and score themselves.

Bryncethin then opened up a lead which

they were never to lose and they went on to finish the game 6-2 winners.

Try scorers: Rhys Williams (3), Miles Blakeman, Rhys Cawley and Jake Whitefield.

Bridgend Athletic 6 Bryncethin 6

Game two started with Bridgend opening the scoring and they quickly went over again.

Bryncethin were still on the back foot when they were able to break away and score. Following a quick reshuffle, Bryncethin started to gain control of the game and with the final whistle not far away, Bryncethin scored to bring the game level.

Great spirit was shown by both sides, but there was to be no winner and the game ended in a draw 6-6.

Try scorers: Rhys Cawley (2), Ifan Hunnam

(2) and Rhys Williams (2).

Man of the match: Morgan Hughes for his great tagging and forward play – well done Morgan.

Match day squad: Jake Whitefield (captain game 1), Thomas Bassett (captain game 2), Cameron Alston, Shaun Batchelor, Miles Blakeman, Rhys Cawley, Mike Gillette, Morgan Hughes, Ifan Hunnam, Will Laverick, Jac Jervis, Cory Ryall and Rhys Williams.

UNDER-10s
TWO games for the under-10s as both Porthcawl and Bryncethin visited Bridgend Athletic.

Bridgend Athletic 49 Bryncethin 7

For once, Bryncethin started brightly and were rewarded when they opened the scoring through Scott Ryall with the conversion from Jack Thomas.

This only served to provoke the Athletic into action, who responded to score five tries in the first half to take a commanding lead.

The second half saw the hosts score three unanswered tries. The Bryncethin players kept going until the end and played with the desire we have come to expect from them.

The coaching staff hope that the boys will take notice of how well drilled their opponents were and the importance of making the most of training sessions.

Well done to the Athletic players on a polished performance.

Try scorer: Scott Ryall.

Porthcawl 21 Bryncethin 38

After a short break and some stern words, Bryncethin boys were sent out against

Porthcawl to try and get some rhythm into their play.

Two early tries from Scott Ryall and Tobias Hunt, and a conversion from Jack Thomas, were to set them on their way.

Scott crossed for his second of the match with Josh Napper adding the conversion.

The second half was a tighter affair with Porthcawl giving their all.

There were further Bryncethin tries for Aaron Thomas, Keiran Dixon and Daniel Osarigie, with conversions for Lewis Francis and Josh Napper.

Porthcawl crossed for three converted tries to finish the game at 38-21.

Try scorers: Scott Ryall (2), Keiran Dixon, Daniel Osarigie, Aaron Thomas and Tobias Hunt.

Man of the day: Joshua Thomas, who didn't take a backwards step during either game in attack and defence.

Match day squad: Aaron Thomas (captain game 1), Daniel Osarigie (captain game 2), Keiran Dixon, Luke Board, Scott Ryall, Josh Napper, Jack Thomas, Finlay Mullens, Morgan Stevens, Ethan Hopkins, Joshua Thomas, Lewis Francis, Thomas Jones and Tobias Hunt.

UNDER-12s
Llantwit Major 34 Bryncethin 17

BRYNCETHIN travelled up to Llantwit Major and Bryn kicked off first, with Jack Ladler scoring the first try and Ieuan Davies converting.

The boys continued to play well, with Jack Ladler scoring again. The try was again converted by Ieuan Davies.

Llantwit came back with two excellent tries, making the score at half-

time 14-17.

As the second half started, Llantwit continued with their fast paced game, but Sam Harding, with his ferocious tackling, gave them a run for their money.

There were plenty of spirited displays from the Bryncethin lads with Christian Jones showing great determination and speed. Connor Ford was excellent in defence to stop a certain try.

On the day, it was a good game by all, although Llantwit had more points on the board.

Man of the match: Christian Jones.

Match day squad: Sam Harding (captain), Ieuan Davies, Aaron McIyre, Liam Morgan, Leon Sylvester, Carwyn Smith, Connor Ford, Adam John, Jacob Walters, Corey Rogers, Henry Clark, Nicholas Morgan, Morgan Howells, Christian Jones, Josh Peters, Jack Ladler and Corey Booth.

RH

Golf lessons for ladies

PYLE and Kenfig Golf Club is launching an initiative to introduce more girls and ladies to the game.

The club is offering free females-only group lessons on the covered practice area, so lessons can go ahead even if the weather is bad.

Initially, there will be six free lessons, the first on Wednesday, April 20. Golf clubs and balls will be provided.

For more information, contact the Proshop on 01656 772446.

Bridgend Athletic grab hard-fought, last-minute win

Lock Jamie Docherty is lifted high to pressurise the Llangennech lineout.
PHOTO BY ADRIAN BURT



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 44)

Although Llangennech managed to win the ball back, they were put under pressure by fierce tackling by flankers Lloyd Evans and stand-in captain Matthew Hillman.

Eventually, the visitors opted to kick out of defence but the ball ricocheted into Lewis' hands and he quickly transferred the ball to Morris, who set Olds on another elusive run and once again Llangennech infringed. Lewis stepped up to extend the lead to 10 points.

Once again, Llangennech surged into Athletic territory but again gritty defence, ably fronted by lock Gruff Davies, forced them back and a long range penalty fell just short. At the next lineout, Llangennech's over-throw was pounced on by Evans who quickly passed on the ball which reached Pemberton in space.

He ran strongly before sliding a kick through. The desperate clearance fell straight into Evans' hands and he moved it in to Morris whose long pass reached Olds, who rounded the defending forward for a try wide

out. This was the young three-quarter's third in as many games. Lewis' conversion hit the post.

Clearly, the home team were delighted to be 15 points up but, as Evans left the field, having aggravated an injury sustained in the previous match, to be replaced by the rejuvenated Lee Sims, Llangennech were back on the offensive. Again backs and forwards interlinked to stretch the Athletic defence.

Flanker Richard Thomas broke the line to feed an overhead pass to lock Mike Squirrel, who burst one tackle to surge over for a try that was well converted by Craig Evans.

In the early exchanges of the second half, the Athletic were unable to find some of their earlier intensity in defence and Llangennech were able to break the advantage line with some surging drives. The pressure told and wing Chris Mathias popped up at speed to slip a tackle and score a try that Evans again converted to bring his team within one point.

Llangennech were now winning all the small battles and territorially they were in com-

mand. Nevertheless, the Athletic players were giving their all to repel the men in black and red.

The occasional break-out relieved some pressure but it was mainly backs to the wall stuff. When the Athletic turned over Llangennech ball and kicked out of defence, Pemberton and Rob Coles were quick to chase but the support was slow to arrive. This allowed full-back Vaughan to make good ground into home territory before linking with his support players, and left wing Lane nipped over for a good try that Craig Evans again converted well.

Time was running out and despite making changes, the Athletic's desperate attempts to regain the lead were being thwarted by the visitors and it looked as though their fine run of results was about to end.

As time ran out, Rob Coles made a strong run which was carried on by Rhys Jones and Stuart Morris before Coles was involved again. He transferred to Olds before receiving the return pass. When he was confronted by the full-back, he found Simon Mustoe on his shoulder.

The burly hooker shook off a grabbing hand and raced away 30 metres to score under the posts with an Ashton-esque swallow dive. He stepped Lewis to chip over the conversion that gave the Athletic a breathless victory as the final whistle went.

This victory takes the Athletic within two points of third-placed Bonymaen, although they remain in sixth for now. Of their remaining six fixtures, four are at home and the Athletic will be looking to climb the table.

The next league match is at Bonymaen on April 2, followed by successive home fixtures against Corus, Bridgend and Whitland, before travelling to Wauanrwydd on April 30. There is also still one home match to be arranged, vs Bonymaen in April.

ADRIAN BURT

MARK DAVIES

Maesteg gears up for the new cricket season

MAESTEG Cricket Club has begun indoor nets in preparation for the club's assault on Division Two of the Thomas Carroll South Wales Cricket Association, (First and Second XIs) and also that of Alliance Division Two of the Thomas Carroll Welsh Club Cricket Conference (Third XI).

The 2011 season will also see the club field three junior teams at under-11, under-14 and under-16 and will compete in the South Wales Junior League.

Indoor net sessions are held at Maesteg Comprehensive School on Monday evenings from 5.30pm to 6.30pm (juniors up to under-14) under the watchful eyes of club coach Martin Wilshire, and youth team organisers Dai Price, Ryan Parry, Dean Cox and Steve Williams.

Senior sessions follow from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. The remainder of the junior section are invited to these sessions and former and new players of all ages and playing ability are most welcome to attend.

Club captain Ryan Parry takes over at the helm, and will captain the First XI for the first time. The club is thrilled that Ryan has been selected to represent the South Wales Cricket

Association on their tour to South Africa in 2012.

Dean Cox will continue as Second XI captain and will help to develop the younger players in their quest to a higher level. The Third XI have been re-established following a break of six seasons and will mix the more 'senior' players with the club's talented youth players, the captain being club stalwart Richard Howells.

2011 will see Maesteg Cricket Club celebrate its 165th anniversary (established in 1846, one of Wales' longest established cricket clubs).

Ironically, the club will also be celebrating a golden jubilee as it is 50 years since the club won its first and only Dan Radcliffe Cup – Division One of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Cricket League.

To commemorate these milestones, the club is to host a post-season gala dinner – plans are already well under way.

The club are also embarking on a post-season tour to Worcester where they will be playing two matches at junior and senior level against Broadway CC on September 10 and Barnards Green CC on September 11. The club is indebted to John Richards, who has arranged the tour within a fortnight of being co-opted onto the club's committee.

RAH

Athletic bounce back after slip-up

STINGING from criticism of an inept display in drawing at Felinfoel, the Athletic turned in their best performance of the season to defeat UWIC by 32 points to 15 at the South Wales Police Ground last week.

They crossed for four tries picking up a bonus point on the way. The club are unbeaten in their last six league games and have picked up 23 points in this period, including wins against second and third placed Narbeth and Corus. UWIC are now only two points ahead of the Athletic in fifth place.

A pleasing feature of a highly entertaining match was that Athletic matched the tempo of the super fit students, having surrendered a 27-7 lead when UWIC ran them ragged in the final 10 minutes last September, to end up the wrong side of a 33-27 result.

This is a tribute to the coaching team of Paul Yardley, John Apsee, David Williams and conditioning coach Rob Green.

UWIC opened the scoring in the first minute, with Gareth Walters kicking a penalty following hands in a ruck. Athletic outside half Steven Lewis then responded in kind following offside by the UWIC midfield.

UWIC were reduced to 14 men with a yellow card for a high tackle on half way. Lewis put the ball in the corner from the resultant penalty.

Flanker Matthew Hillman gathered the throw in and forced his way over in the corner for the opening try of the game. Lewis converted to put the Athletic 10-3 ahead. The Athletic then opened up play on their 10-yard line, only for wing Alex Carlton-Porter to intercept and race clear under the posts. Walters converted to level the scores at 10-10 at half time.

The second half started with the students mounting wave after wave of attacks in the Athletic 22. Excellent defence by backs and forwards alike kept them from crossing the whitewash.

It was then the Athletics' turn to show their attacking prowess. The forwards, with locks Jamie Docherty and Sean Williams to the fore, drove into the students. Hooker Simon Mustoe and No 8 Steve Penry-Ellis were also prominent ball carriers.

When the ball was released, half backs Tom Davies and Lewis moved the ball quickly to the midfield of Stuart Morris and Rob Coles. Full back Lyndsey Macausland fed wing James Olds 30 metres out, and he went on a Shane Williams-style mesmerising run, beating four defenders before crossing under the posts for his second try

Bonus point win for a rampant Pencoed RFC

PENCOED'S rich vein of form continued with almost a complete a performance as one could hope for.

Free flowing attacking rugby combined with uncompromising defence characterised this 26-0 bonus point victory.

A good early scrum-mage had the home side on the retreat, and the team played with confidence before releasing skipper Aaron Halse out in the left wing position. Back row forward Halse needed no second invitation and swept over, and Marc Davies converted.

Pencoed continued to attack, centre Ken Morris splitting the Morryston midfield and taking play to the home line, where sustained pressure from the pack saw front row forward Keiron Moore drive across; Davies converted.

Morryston had no answer at this stage, and

Morryston Pencoed

0 26

good combined play from Pencoed saw young flanker Liam Evans in support to score for a 19-0 lead after 12 minutes.

Credit to the home side who gradually got themselves into the match through their big pack, and during the middle part of the game threw everything at Pencoed.

Tremendous defence from Pencoed somehow kept the hosts out, with young flanker Justin Russell and outside half Davies pulling off superb tackles close to their own line.

Davies eventually eased the pressure with a fine clearing kick.

In the dying moments, Pencoed secured the bonus point, a sweeping counter attack involving the looping Jamie Williams, Aaron Songhurst, and Morris, who took the floated inside pass from

Williams to arc away from 30 metres to score at the posts.

Davies converted to put the seal on a fine victory.

This was arguably Pencoed's best all-round performance of the season, in particular the defensive commitment throughout which must have given coaches Kevin Mably and Phil Pinches great satisfaction.

The team now have a break before travelling to the Llynfi Valley to meet Nantylfyllon on April 2.

Pencoed now sit in sixth position in the league table following three consecutive bonus point wins, scoring 134 points in the process.

With underfoot conditions firming up, the team go into their final eight games looking to finish the season with a flourish.

TR

Pencoed Youth pile on the points at Pyle

PENCOED youth maintained their run of good form with a comprehensive 40-10 league win at Pyle.

Pencoed second row Chris John won early possession at the lineout which allowed his side to gain a foothold in the home half.

Scrum half Tom Daniels, taking a quick tap penalty, released his backs who handled well for the supporting No 8 Jordan Hawkins to cross wide out.

Full back Lewys Jenkins converted with a fine kick.

Pyle hit back with a penalty goal, but

Pyle Youth Pencoed Youth

10 40

Pencoed then got their second try with a break from centre Lloyd Bargery, who put Adam Williams over; Jenkins converted.

Bargery then crossed following a superb move, forwards Ryan Richardson, Liam Callaghan and Hawkins all showing good hands down the left hand touchline.

Pencoed started the second half as they had finished the first, good handling putting centre Rhys Vowles over, and Jenkins converted.

Skipper Bargery then picked a great angle to race over, and a full round of passing from the threequarters put wing Michael Fincham over for Pencoed's sixth try.

Jenkins converted for a 40-3 lead.

Entering the final minute Pyle got a deserved consolation converted try for a final scoreline of 10-40.

For Pencoed, skipper Lloyd Bargery at centre had a fine game, with Chris John up front also doing well.

TR

Llantwit RFC see promotion hopes dented by two losses

THE last two week-ends have seen Wales in action, with mixed results, and Llantwit Major have arranged early kick offs to try and avoid a backlog in April.

Like Wales there appears to be a lack of strength in depth, although the effort and commitment of those who stepped in cannot be faulted.

In the first fixture, Llantwit were at home to fellow promotion contenders Tonyrefail, who are having a good run of results, and the visitors ran out 29-25 winners.

For Llantwit, half backs Barry Griffiths and Lawrence Howley scored tries, with flanker Marcus Pearce having another stormer, scoring a third try.

Howley converted all three and added a brace of penalties but Llantwit struggled with some of the referee's decisions, although that is no excuse. They were beaten on the day by a side with more 'dog' who took their chances.

Last weekend Llantwit travelled to Nantymoel after the scheduled game last month was postponed at the very last minute due to a frosty pitch.

Forced to call up several regular second team players, Llantwit found Nantymoel harder than the ground conditions in February and slumped to a disappointing 34-17 defeat.

Young Tom Silva on the wing had a fine game for Llantwit,

scoring a try on his full first team debut, with Lawrence Howley kicking four penalties and Marcus Pearce having another good game to state his case for a full time move from wing to back row.

The amazing Les Dixon once again answered Llantwit's emergency call for front row cover and young hooker Rhys Davies played well, but it was too big an ask for the bare squad of 19 players, thrown together virtually at the last minute, against a determined Nantymoel side.

Have Llantwit blown their title hopes? It is still early to say, but there are doubts whether there is enough commitment, as much depth to get their campaign going again, and also doubts that they can cope with the intensity of Division Three next year if they do go up.

Hopefully, they will prove the doubters wrong with an impressive display at Llandaff this week.

Congratulations are extended to Lawrence Howley on his selection as captain of Wales under-19s who played against England at Bath on Friday.

Although switched from flyhalf to centre, Lawrence gave a good display, despite falling foul of referee Nigel Whitehouse on one occasion. The talented Llantwit Comprehensive pupil will be hoping he has done enough to be included in the Welsh Sevens squad which will compete in Dubai in the summer.

DG



Emile Wile jumps for the ball.

Porthcawl under-16s complete derby double

PORTHCAWL RFC under16s completed the double over their neighbours at Newbridge Fields Bridgend Athletic on Sunday.

This game started as a typical local derby with both sides making mistakes and no real pattern of play.

From the start, the home side opted to go with passive scrums which would negate one of Porthcawl's strengths.

The deadlock was broken when a flowing backs move saw outside-half Huw Mitchell receive the ball in the centre of midfield and beat a defender to go over for a try, which went unconverted.

When these sides met last time, Porthcawl kicked tactically throughout the game. However, on this occasion, the coaches wanted the ball to be spread at every opportunity.

This enterprise resulted in the second try of the day when winger Xavier Manaseitava received the ball after it had gone through all of the backs' hands.

He still had a bit of work to do and used his pace to score in the cor-



Huw Mitchell scores.

ner; this try was unconverted. Jack Williams was unlucky not to score when he was adjudged to have put a foot on the line five metres from the line.

The young Seaweeds were now in full control of the game and but for excellent defence from the home side, more points would have been scored during this period.

Porthcawl's lineout was totally dominate throughout and when they had one close to the line, a move was called that saw Evan Williams power his way to score.

This was well converted by Scott Govan and the half ended with Porthcawl leading 17-0 and in full control of the game.

Thomas Matthews scored a try early in the second half when he cut a great angle at pace to out-

strip the covering defence and score under the posts.

Again, excellent Athletic defence kept Porthcawl out on numerous occasions and the home side were struggling to cope with the pace of the young Seaweeds.

Unfortunately, due to two separate injuries to Ath players, the match was ended early, which was disappointing as the young Seaweeds were beginning to go up a gear.

This was a good run out in preparation towards Porthcawl's Ospreys Cup semi-final with Abercraze at South Road on April 3.

Porthcawl youth are looking for a backs coach for next season; anybody interested should contact Paul Brown on 07875 349876.

PB

Bryncoch 'battered' by five-try Michael

TONDU under-11s welcomed Bryncoch to Ynysawdre for what proved to be an absorbing contest between two competitive sides.

Straight from the kick-off, Tondur went on the attack, taking play close to the Bryncoch line. Bryncoch resisted and replied with some attacking of their own, taking play back into the Tondur half.

The game settled into this pattern and it took a moment of individual brilliance to break the deadlock. Michael Batters, the Tondur winger, received the ball on the wing and outstripped the Bryncoch defence to score in the corner. It was agreed that there would be no conversions due to the absence of available posts.

Tondur soon added a second try with good rucking presenting quick ball for Michael Batters to nip down the blind-side and score in the corner again.

Bryncoch couldn't respond and soon conceded another try, Michael Batters once more benefiting from good attacking play from Tondur.

Try as they might, Bryncoch could not prevent try number four arriving in the shape of Garryn Thomas, with a trademark drive from close range.

Bryncoch rolled up their sleeves and soon scored two quick tries of their own from some committed forward work.

The half finished 20-10 in Tondur's favour.

Tondur seemed to go off the boil during the early second half but did manage to score next. Michael Batters was once more on hand, taking a short pass to crash over for his fourth.

Bryncoch responded immediately, taking advantage of some slack defending to score.

The final word came from the home team with the prolific Michael Batters completing a great display of finishing with a direct run to the line. Although caught, he was able to reach out and place the ball for the try.

As the season draws to a close, Tondur are looking towards the under-12 campaign next year. If there are players who wish to join for next season they are welcome to visit on Tuesday nights at Pandyr Parc at 6pm. Further details are available at www.pitchero.com/clubs/tondurf/ - just click on the link for the mini section. Players of all abilities and skill levels are welcome.

Team: Cameron Pritchard, James Mayne, Ben Rich, Ben Merchant, Callum Booton, Morgan David, Tyler Davies, Garryn Thomas, Michael Batters, James Richards, Josh Evans, Jordan Morgan, Ryan Jones, Ioan Thomas and Shannon Price.

DM

Llangan school

YEARS 1-2 children at Llangan Primary School are enjoying a fantastic experience - being taken to Pencoed Agricultural College every Friday for six weeks to take part in a forest school project.

This involves lighting fires and cooking marshmallows!

Science workshop - Last week, the school celebrated science week with various workshops, including a healthy school assembly with 'Healthy Harry' to talk to the children.

CAOS AUCTION

COWBRIDGE Amateur Operatic Society are deep in rehearsal for their 2011 production *The Likes of Us*, and are holding a charity auction to raise money for Barnardo's Cymru on Friday, April 1 at 7.30pm in the function room of The Duke of Wellington.

Entry tickets £5, including cheese and wine, available from 01446 773169.



COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

There were healthy eating workshops for each class, also water workshops and experiments for each class.

During my recent visit to the school, I was invited to the nursery class and what a delight it was. The tiny tots were having a wonderful time, with music and lovely cakes being decorated by the teaching staff.

School centenary - This year, the school will celebrate its centenary and I understand there will be a week of celebrations in the summer when it is hoped a number of former pupils will visit the school.

Water problems

PART of the green at Fferm Goch is in a sorry state at the moment - but it is all in a good cause!

It seems new water mains are necessary in the Fferm Goch area and I was assured everything would be put in order when the job is complete.

Last-gasp win for Pencoed under-14s team

PENCOED under-14s travelled to Newbridge Fields to play Bridgend Sports on a sunny day that saw a bright game of rugby.

It was an exciting game of rugby, with good defence from both teams. Bridgend Sports came closest to scoring, but a penalty was unsuccessful, so at half time the score was nil-nil.

There were some big tackles put in by Daniel Maiden, Morgan Jeffries, Morgan Jones, Johnathan Clatworthy and Jack Briggs, and strong running from Chris Cooper and Ellis Griffiths.

All the boys deserve a mention for their team

work and, in the last three minutes of the game, Pencoed were awarded a penalty and decided to take it quickly for Jack Briggs to cross the line for the only score of the day.

Both sets of parents thoroughly enjoyed the match.

Squad: James Merchant, Scott Ewing, Jack Briggs, Owain Clarke, Jake Broker, Morgan Jeffries, Josh Maund, Joe Watkins, Aled Bargery, Daniel Maiden, Johnathan Clatworthy, Chris Cooper, Alex King, Morgan Jones, Liam Bowen, Jamie Dyer, Ellis Griffiths, Jason Clatworthy and Lewis Brennan.

JM



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GEM Family Notices

HICKS Clive

Peacefully at the Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend on March 15th 2011, Clive, much loved and cherished elder son of the late Arthur and Margaret. Dearly loved brother of Rob.

A pleasure to be with - a great privilege to know.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in St. Illtud's Church on Monday 28th March at 2.15 p.m. followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 5.45 p.m. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to the Alzheimers Disease Society c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

Bond Roger

Peacefully on March 16 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Roger of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of the late Avril, dearly loved father of Philip and Simon, father-in-law of Eunice and Sue, much loved grandfather of Nathan.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonnem. Funeral Tuesday March 29, service and cremation 3.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired to Cancer Research UK c/o J James, 11 Fonnem Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

JONES Muriel Elsie

Carol, Alun, Stuart and their families would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their support during mum's illness, cards and messages of sympathy and generous charitable donations.

Thank you also to all who attended the service for mum, with special thanks to Barry Male Voice Choir for their musical contribution, Maureen Tearle for her uplifting words and Adams Funeral Home for their dignified and considerate services.

The family would also like to thank all staff who cared for her so wonderfully at Velindre Hospital as an outpatient and her period of time on the ASU Ward. Our thanks also go to the staff at Holme Tower Hospice for their dedicated care and support during this difficult time.

Public Notices

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:
HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00155/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnyg: Change of use from grazing land to cricket ground and associated car parking facilities.
Location:/Lleoliad: Giebfields, Sully

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 17 March, 2011
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 17 Mawrth, 2011
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
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Anniversary

Happy 45th
Wedding Anniversary
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ST DAVID'S DAY WAS MARKED IN STYLE!

The usual weekly meetings of
Barry WI took place in
February and March.

The speaker for February talked
about GI brides of Barry. The ladies
found this very interesting as it
brought back memories of the SRD
and other places used during the war.

March has been a busy month. On
March 1 (Tuesday afternoon meeting)
we held a St David's Day celebration.
Two stories were read and Welsh
music was played, with some singing
from the ladies.

The afternoon tea was Welsh cakes,
bara brith and cheese scones, served
with a cup of tea or coffee. This was
excellent, and while the ladies were

clearing up we played Hoi Bingo. It
was a very sociable afternoon.

No speaker was booked for the
monthly evening meeting as we were
having our St David's supper and the
drama group show. As usual, there
was plenty to eat, and thanks to our
president June for doing all the shopping.
We would like to say thank you to
the ladies who helped laying out
the buffet. The drama group was
excellent and Marie Carter did a very
good job of organising this.

Our meetings are open to any lady
who would like to come along and see
how WI works.

Further details from the secretary
on 01446 410139.

Jeanette Chilcott

'Urban trees' proposed

A Barry councillor is proposing that an 'urban tree
scheme' should be adopted in
the town and other communities in the Vale.

The idea is not only to make the
local environment more pleasant for
people, but to make use of extra 'services'
that trees provide.

Coun Rob Curtis explained: "I
believe that street or urban trees make
our communities a better and more
pleasant places in which to live and
raise families.

"They benefit our towns and villages
in a number of ways.

"They filter polluted air and absorb
traffic noise. They moderate the local
climate by slowing and absorbing
wind and storm water. They are also
critical in cooling the 'urban heat' during
the summer months."

Coun Curtis also said that the presence
of street trees can have a positive

effect on the incidents of asthma, skin
cancer and many stress related illnesses.

He also pointed out that average
house prices can be up to 18 per cent
higher where property is associated
with mature trees.

"Urban or street trees also provide
vital nesting, shelter and food for birds
and other wild animals thus helping to
support bio-diversity.

"To pay for the planting and nurturing
of existing and newly planted
trees, the council should investigate a
scheme to allow the sponsoring of
them by individuals, businesses and
voluntary organisations.

"People could sponsor the planting
of a tree as a celebration, as a living
memorial or as a 'green gift' that
would help communities in the Vale."

Coun Curtis is putting forward his
proposal to a council scrutiny committee.

British Airways Maintenance team pull together in aid of Comic Relief

BRITISH Airways maintenance team in Cardiff raised money for Comic Relief, by hosting an 'aircraft pull' with its local teams at Cardiff International Airport on Red Nose Day (March 18).

Made up of British Airways staff, 12 teams, comprising 35 members each took part in the pull. Before each pull, professional sportsmen Matt Elias (400m hurdler) and David Roberts (Olympic swimmer) led the warm-up activities.

In addition to the fundraising, there were trophies for 'best dressed team', 'most sponsorship money raised' and 'fastest time', as well as a medal for every entrant.

Local schoolchildren were invited to watch the event.

Since British Airways joined forces with Comic Relief in June 2010, the airline has raised in excess of £700,000 for 'Flying Start' – the airline's charity partnership with Comic Relief, which aims to transform the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the UK and around the world.

Bill Kelly, British Airways general manager at Cardiff Maintenance Bay, said: "The response from our colleagues to support this event was exceptional."

"I'm delighted that a large number of BA teams from across south Wales joined us on the day to 'Do Something Funny for Money', and, of course, for Flying Start."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE WILCOCK



Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Schools Girls' Cross-Country Championships and League

WONDERFUL DAY FOR THE VALE GIRLS!

AFTER years of letting city schools dominate the team awards in the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Schools cross-country league and championships, the Vale schools at last claimed the lion's share of the titles on offer.

The current structure of championship age groups has been in place since the late 90s, with the equivalent league structure pre-dating that.

In the dozen or so years since the championships change, Vale schools have never won more than two of the six titles available – three in both the championships and the league.

In the final league fixture and championships, held at Trelai Park on a dry day but with a chilly breeze, all that changed.

As expected, year-9 Kate Seary was in a class of her own in the opening race, cantering away from her two Vale rivals, Kate Coker (Stanwell) and Erin Hayes (Llantwit), to complete an unbeaten season and also taking the individual championship and the league points title.

Her Whitchurch team was expected to claim a league and championships title double but, on the day, the North Cardiff school fielded an usually small team, and their chances nose dived. Cardiff High just pipped Cowbridge by a single point to claim the championship title, with Llantwit in third spot.

In the league, Cardiff High again headed the placings, but the second place by the Cowbridge girls meant that they took the league honours.

For the third time this season, the determined running from Seren Allin (Cowbridge) saw off the challenge from Caitlin Xerri (Cardiff High) to

take the league points title and the championships.

The Stanwell front runners have been in good form this winter and emulated their boys by taking the four to score championship title from Llanishen and Howells.

In the six-to score league competition, the Howells squad produced its best performance of the season to claim the 30 league points.

Stanwell finished fourth on the day, but the school's 85 points total was enough to see off the Llanishen challenge, with Howells pipping Cowbridge for third spot on position points.

Two races, three titles. This was already the Vale girls' best ever day, but there was more to come.

Year-12 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) had won the final race, for senior girls in years 10 and above, at the opening two fixtures. Although she had been ill around Christmas and had missed the McCain Cardiff Cross Challenge, it was thought that she had made a full recovery.

It certainly looked like that as she built up a comfortable lead over year-10 Megan Osborne (Llantwit), but everything changed in the closing stages. Megan started a late charge, and Bethan faltered. The result was a win for Megan, who claimed the under-17 championship title. Bethan, who was second in the race, won the under-20 championship and retained her league points title, and year-11 Fiona Bray, who was fourth finisher, was third in the under-17 championships.

In the team competitions, the Cowbridge quartet won the championship on 47 points, and was the only school to finish six scorers in the league – a performance which earned 20 league

points and a final score of 59 out of 60, to take that team title as well.

What a wonderful day for the Vale girls – three individual championship titles out of four, two championship team titles out of three, two individual league points titles out of three and three league titles out of three.

When the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Schools Cross-Country Presentation is held at Bro Morgannwg on Wednesday, May 11, the Vale girls are going to be collecting the majority of the top awards – for the first time.

Vale results

Championships: Senior Girls – 4.3 km – 45 finishers – 1 Megan Osborne (Lwt) U17-1:17.14; 2 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) U20-1:17.20; 4 Fiona Bray (Cow) U17-1:18.08; 7 Lucy Tarrant (Lwt) U17-1:18.32; 9 Danielle Green (StRichGwyn) U17-1:19.25; 11 Bethan Allman (Cow) U17-1:19.43; 14 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) U17-1:20.29; 18 Miriam Bennett (Cow) U17-1:20.43; 23 Katie Wynne (Cow) U17-1:21.11; 24 Bethan Yapp (Bro M) U17-20:21:13; 27 Lisa James (Bro M) U17-22:21:32; 28 Chloe Webber (Bryn H) U17-23:21:44; 29 Anthea Young (Lwt) U17-24:22:16; 31 Rebecca John (Cow) U17-25:22:18; 32 Kathryn Gardner (Bryn H) U17-26:22:31; 38 Leah Kirby (Bro M) U17-30:23:59; 39 Megan Punter (Bro M) U17-31:24:10; 40 Sarah Herbert (Bryn H) U17-32:24:44; 41 Chloe Phillips (Lwt) U17-33:25:25; 43 Zoe Hodgkinson (Bryn H) U17-34:26:41; 45 Kirby Redrup (Bryn H) U17-36:30:07.

Teams: 1 Cowbridge 47; 4 Llantwit 78; 7 YG Bro Morgannwg 128; 8 Bryn Hafren 143. Year 8 and 9 Girls – 3.6 km – 105 finishers – 2 Kate Coker (Stan) 14:21; 3 Erin Hayes (Lwt) 14:41; 10 Nadine James (Cow) 15:45; 11 Anastasia Mirza-Davies (Stan) 15:47; 12 Rebecca Thomas (Cow) 15:57; 13 Ellie Atkinson

(Lwt) 15:59; 16 Ela Emyr (Cow) 16:16; 19 Alice Tudor (Cow) 17:01; 28 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 17:38; 30 Ffion Davies (Bro M) 17:54; 32 Elin Phillips-Bowen (Bro M) 17:55; 33 Brooke Langdon-Cryer (Cow) 18:01; 34 Charlotte Webber (Bryn H) 18:01; 35 Kayla Huggins (Bryn H) 18:05; 37 Caitlin Young (Bro M) 18:14; 41 Lauren Blake (StRichGwyn) 18:32; 42 Kierney O'Dare (Lwt) 18:33; 43 Holly Howles (Lwt) 18:37; 46 Eleanor Hicks (Lwt) 18:55; 47 Natasha Johnston (Cow) 18:56; 51 Sally Gambling (Cow) 19:20; 54 Catrin Davies (Bro M) 19:29; 55 Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cow) 19:32; 56 Megan Langdon-Cryer (Cow) 19:36; 57 Ffion Hopkins (Lwt) 19:38; 60 Evie Williams (Cow) 19:49; 64 Tamara Pitt (Lwt) 20:09; 70 Mellisa Gray (Lwt) 20:40; 71 Milly Williams (Stan) 20:43; 72 Sophie Morse (Bryn H) 20:45; 74 Megan Thomas (Bro M) 20:50; 75 Ruth May (Lwt) 20:54; 80 Robin Tait (Bro M) 21:31; 81 Alys Walton (Bro M) 21:35; 83 Abbie Dee (StRichGwyn) 21:59; 84 Alice Nottingham (Stan) 22:03; 85 Sarah Arnold (Bryn H) 22:08; 86 Heuwin Hill (StRichGwyn) 2:11; 87 Laura Young (Lwt) 22:14; 97 Sophia Swaffield (StRichGwyn) 22:59; 100 Morgan White (StRichGwyn) 23:31; 104 Rebecca Gill (StRichGwyn) 27:40; 105 Kelsey Penikett (StRichGwyn) 27:41.

Teams: 2 Cowbridge 57; 4 Llantwit 101; 8 YG Bro Morgannwg 153; 9 Stanwell 168; 10 Bryn Hafren 169; 12 Cowbridge B 186; 14 Llantwit B 255; 19 St Richard Gwyn 307. Year-7 Girls – 3 km – 107 finishers – 1 Seren Allin (Cow) 11:59; 5 Emily Wooster (Stan) 13:25; 6 Annabelle Birch-Hurst (Stan) 13:49; 11 Seren Marsh (Stan) 13:59; 12 Ysabelle Williams (Westbourne) 14:21; 16 Kelsea Peterson (Bro M) 14:42; 29 Niamh Jenkins

(Cow) 15:30; 31 Cerys Bradshaw (Cow) 15:42; 33 Georgia Logan-Davies (Stan) 15:52; 35 Nia Fenn (Bro M) 16:00; 43 Gemma Viney (Cow) 16:28; 44 Victoria Bennett (Cow) 16:30; 48 Tesni Sewell (Bro M) 16:37; 52 Alicia Thomas (Cow) 16:48; 54 Isobel Smith (Cow) 16:50; 58 Rebecca Humpage (Stan) 17:01; 59 Sophia Harpin (Cow) 17:02; 60 Daisy Williams (Stan) 17:06; 66 Eleanor Farr (Cow) 17:25; 73 Libby Evans (Bro M) 17:44; 74 Belinda Wallace (Bro M) 17:55; 75 Ffion Thomas (Bro M) 17:56; 76 Tayla Gerrish (Bro M) 17:54; 89 Megan Aspell (Lwt) 19:54; 90 Bethan Herman (Bryn H) 19:56; 91 Beth Wride (Lwt) 19:58; 92 Nia Rees (Lwt) 20:05; 97 Donna O'Hare (StRichGwyn) 20:59; 99 Bethan Evans (Stan) 22:02; 102 Jess Wyatt (Lwt) 23:24; 106 Mary Gale (StRichGwyn) 25:42.

Teams: 1 Stanwell 55; 6 Cowbridge 104; 10 YG Bro Morgannwg 172; 13 Cowbridge B 209; 17 Stanwell B 289; 20 Llantwit 374. League 3 – Senior – 1 Cowbridge 175 (20); 3 Bryn Hafren 42 (18); 5 Llantwit 106 (16); 8 Bro Morgannwg 56 (13); 11 St Cyres 44 (10); 12 St Richard Gwyn 37 (9). Years 8 and 9 – 2 Cowbridge 466 (24); 3 Llantwit 425 (23); 5 Bro Morgannwg 329 (21); 7 St Richard Gwyn 125 (19); 8 Bryn Hafren 256 (18); 12 Stanwell 276 (14). Year-7 – 4 Stanwell 475 (27); 6 Cowbridge 449 (25); 9 Bro Morgannwg 327 (22); 14 Llantwit 147 (17); 15 St Richard Gwyn 13 (16); 16 Westbourne 96 (15); 18 Bryn Hafren 18 (13). Overall League placings: Senior – 1 Cowbridge 59; 4 Bryn Hafren 48; 6 Bro Morgannwg 43; 7 Llantwit Major 42; 10 St Cyres 32; 12 St Richard Gwyn 28; 14 Stanwell 18. Year 8 and 9 – 1 Cowbridge 71; 5 Stanwell 60; 8 Llantwit Major 56; 9 Bryn Hafren 53; 10 Bro Morgannwg

50; 13 St. Richard Gwyn 40; 18 St Cyres 21; 23 Westbourne 6. Year-7 – 1 Stanwell 85; 4 Cowbridge 78; 6 Bro Morgannwg 77; 12 Llantwit Major 52; 14 St Richard Gwyn 46; 15 Bryn Hafren 44; 18 St Cyres 36; 20 Westbourne 35.

Aviva Welsh Schools Golden Celebration National Cross-Country Championships

THE success of the Vale girls was on display when the Aviva Welsh Schools Golden Celebration National cross-country championships were held at Penlan, Brecon.

Eighteen Vale pupils were included in the 48 strong girls' team selected to represent the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan district: Senior Girls (Years 12 and 13) – Bethan Daw (St Cyres); Elinor Pugh & Isabelle Evans (both Howell's), Sabrina James (Cowbridge). Middle Girls (Years 10 and 11) – Megan Osborne and Lucy Tarrant (both Llantwit), Fiona Bray, Miriam Bennett and Bethan Allman (all Cowbridge). Junior Girls (Years 8 and 9) – Kate Coker (Stanwell), Erin Hayes (Llantwit) and Nadine James (Cowbridge).

Year-7 – Seren Allin (Cowbridge), Emily Wooster, Anabelle Birch-Hurst & Seren Marsh (all Stanwell), Amy Thomas (Howells) & Ysabelle Williams (Westbourne).

In addition, Miss Emma Williams (Bryn Hafren) and Mrs Clare Williams were included in the management team.

This year's event is a celebration of the 50 years since the first Welsh Schools National cross-country championships (for boys) was held at Newtown, then in Montgomeryshire, on March 4, 1961. The winner of the junior boys race at that first event was Phil Morgan of Barry Boys' School.

Report PETER MORRIS



Bethan Daw and Megan Osborne.



Seren Allin.

Erin Hayes.

Under-8s just miss the cut

LLANTWIT Major under-8s travelled to Llandaff North on Sunday to enter the local rugby tournament.

After a long wait, they finally played the first game against Llandaff North under-8s. Llantwit won this match in a close-run game with good hand work from both teams.

Next up was CRICC, a team Llantwit have previously beaten on numerous occasions but not this time. CRICC showed flare and determination and triumphed by a point.

The third game was against Rhymney. Llantwit, still smarting from the earlier defeat, took no prisoners in this game and scored an

unanswered 10 tries to nil in this very fast game.

The final game of the group was a must-win for Llantwit but this wasn't their day. Llanishen were undefeated and looking for a clean sweep at Llantwit's cost.

The game was very fast and well controlled by Llanishen with a few sparks of magic from a tired Llantwit team.

Llantwit missed out from playing in the quarter finals by one point.

Llantwit Major's team: Kieran Daw, Bradley Claxton, Garin Evans, Jacob Hunt, Jonathan Bramhall, Kofi Jones, Luke Pownall, Morgan Thomas, Sam Deere and Toby Thorne.

Well done Llantwit under-8s; next tournament in Barry.

MD

LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Under-14 As win local derby

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-12 side visited Dinas Powys and in a very close match, they lost 3-2.

The Llantwit boys were very upset when the referee gave Jack Barnett offside when he dribbled the ball past two Dinas defenders to score.

This would have given Llantwit a draw and a share of the spoils. The two goals that were given came from Dan Viggers and Jack Barnett.

The under-14A beat Cowbridge Town 3-1 in the local derby at

by GWYN JOHN

Windmill Lane.

It was a keenly-fought tussle with Llantwit taking their chances through Liam Reid, Connor Clarke and Jake Sutcliffe.

A good team display saw them back on the winning trail.

Dylan Owen notched a goal for the under-14B side in their 5-1 home defeat against Sully Sports B and in their final home match of the season, the under-16 team finished on a disappointing note, losing 3-0 to Cogan Coronation.

Dinas girls grab vital victory

THIS was a top of the table clash between two sides with 100 per cent records in the league, although Mardy had beaten a weakened Dinas Powys side 5-0 in an earlier cup game.

Both sides started nervously but it was the visitors who settled quickest without creating too many clear opportunities to score, while our girls struggled to get their passing game together.

The first half was mainly a tough battle between the powerful

Dinas Powys Girls under-18s 1 Mardy Tigers under-18s 0

midfielders on both sides with the Tigers shading it on possession and chances.

After the break the home side settled down and started to play some more cohesive football although the best chance came to Hattie Powell, the Tigers lone forward, who got through the middle of the Dinas defence only to have her shot blocked by home keeper Amy O'Callaghan.

Apart from a mad scramble in front of O'Callaghan's goal chances were again at a premium, although home

striker Shanell Edwards created a great chance for herself with some tricky skills, only to blast her shot high and wide.

While Mardy again edged possession, they couldn't create much to trouble the home keeper.

With five minutes to go and the game looking like ending in a rare goalless draw, the Tigers lost the ball in midfield. It was picked up by Jordan Guard who slipped a superb pass between the visitors right back and centre back for Edwards to run on to and finish neatly into the far corner.

The final minutes were dominated by Mardy, who threw everything at Dinas but with some resolute defending, and O'Callaghan taking two superb catches from very dangerous in-swinging corners while under extreme pressure, our girls managed to see out time.

Ellen's success

THERE was some great news from Belgium, where Wales under-19 girls were playing a friendly on Tuesday.

Ellen Phillips, who plays for the Dinas Powys ladies team, scored in a 2-2 draw.

MW

COWBRIDGE UNDER-14S FIGHT BACK

COWBRIDGE under-14 football team – sponsored by Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions, played Woodford Youth from Essex – sponsored by Fairlop Lions.

Cowbridge are the current Lions District 105W champions, having beaten Frome previously.

Woodford, playing with the slope, wind and sun in the first half, proved too strong for

Cowbridge, and the score was Cowbridge 1, Woodford 8 at half time.

The half time team talk by coach Alan Griffiths will go down in history – we will never know what he told the lads. They came out fighting and the second half was 0-0.

The Lions organised after-match refreshments at Noah's Place, Ramoth Chapel, to ensure the Woodford boys returned to Essex full of Welsh sausage casserole thanks to the Rev Heather and her team.

JW

Cowbridge under-8s' two teams enjoy rugby tournament

COWBRIDGE under-8s took a trip to Cheltenham where two teams competed in the Cheltenham Rugby Festival.

One team entered the Cherokee league competing in pool B, and the other in the Chiefs league in pool A. All players and supporters wish to thank the coaching team of Rich, Robin and Andy for their commitment and efforts with the whole of the under-8s squad.

Cherokees Pool B: Cowbridge under-8s
Cherokees squad: James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Owen Godsall, Ellis Greenwood, Harry Holtam, Ellis Howell, Tom Johnson, McKinley Parsons, Dewi Williams.

The pool was keenly contested and despite not winning too many games, the Cowbridge team performed well in attack throughout the games.

The short, sharp games spread proved to be an exciting challenge.

Cowbridge 3 Bradford On Avon 4
A close game where Cowbridge kept pace with the eventual winners of the group throughout the match.

With the scoreline at 2-2 at half-time, with tries from Harry Holtam and Owen Godsall, the second half was destined to be a hard fought four minutes of rugby.

Bradford opened the scoring before Cowbridge responded with a try from Dewi Williams. A lack of width in defence and

some ball tracking let the Cowbridge side down, allowing Bradford to score the winner just seconds before the final whistle.

Tries: Harry Holtam, Owen Godsall, Dewi Williams.

Cowbridge 3 Minety 5
Again, another closely fought game saw Tom Johnson cross for Cowbridge in the first half after some excellent running and passing by Elis Greenwood.

Cowbridge conceded a trio of tries by half-time, but kept pace with Minety through the second half with Ellis Howell crossing twice after some excellent running and passing by the team.

Tries: Tom Johnson, Ellis Howell (2).

Cowbridge 3 Stow on the Wold (II) 7
A couple of quick tries conceded by Cowbridge exposed defensive weaknesses and put them on the back foot for the remainder of the first half.

Despite McKinley Parsons running in an excellent try before half-time, Cowbridge went in to the break trailing 5-1.

Better width in defence and some good tagging from Cowbridge kept the Stow runners under control and limited their try tally to two. Elis Greenwood crossed twice for Cowbridge with one excellent touchline run-in.

Tries: McKinley Parsons, Elis Greenwood (2).

Cowbridge 4 Stour 6
Cowbridge put in a good performance and defended enthusiastically

ly against a rampant Stroud, who had to work very hard for their three-try haul in the first half.

Elis Greenwood and Owen Godsall responded for Cowbridge with some excellent finishing and with the game in the balance at half-time, Stroud scored first in the second half to give them a two-try lead.

Dewi Williams crossed twice, but two further tries from Stroud resulted in Cowbridge losing 6-4.

Tries: Elis Greenwood, Owen Godsall, Dewi Williams (2).

Cowbridge 5 Chippenham 3
Cowbridge's final game was against the hosts. James Gilvear scored Cowbridge's first try, while their second came from a turnover resulting from the completion of a seven-tag sequence by Cowbridge.

Following the turnover, Elis Greenwood scored and Tom Johnson also crossed the line before half-time, giving Cowbridge a 3-1 lead.

Tom added to his first half try and Dewi Williams converted a period of concerted pressure from Cowbridge into a try. The team ended a tough tournament with a win and some good defensive lessons learned through the 40 minutes of rugby they played.

Chiefs Pool A COWBRIDGE under-8s
Chiefs squad: Ioan Davies, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Harry Hawkins, Oliver Jarmain, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Jack

Cowbridge 1 Corsham 4
Sadly, by this time, Cowbridge were unable to qualify. Some of the bad habits of earlier games came back to haunt them as missed tags cost them dearly, and the only Cowbridge try was scored by Jake.

All in all this was a useful learning experience and it's perhaps fair to say that finishing fourth in their group probably didn't reflect this team's potential.

The return game at Sully B ended in a 2-2 draw with goals coming from Joe Watts and Iwan Goodwin.

Hopefully, the boys can improve on their recent results and performances and get a few wins under their belts.

Thanks to Craig Burrows and all the senior team players for helping out with training and the continuing support of all the parents.

Squad: H Hopkins, T Kynaston, J Evans, A Davies, I Silverthorne, J Reeves, J Watts, S John, S Skeet, T Bailey, C Blackman, O Tuckwell, I Goodwin, S Fairclough, S Treharne, J Jones, M Timms.

Reilly, Harry Whittaker and Jake Williams.

Cowbridge 3 Rhiwbina 5

In the first game, Cowbridge played the eventual winners of the tournament and it is fair to say that the Cowbridge boys gave them as good a game as they got.

Jake started off his Cowbridge player of the tournament display with two tries and Oliver, again continuing to improve, scored one. Regrettably, as in later games, Cowbridge's defence let them down.

Cowbridge 3 Swindon 2
In the second game, Cowbridge beat Swindon with Jake, Jack and Oliver all scoring.

Cowbridge 4 Salisbury 5
This was the crunch game, but from Cowbridge's perspective, the most disappointing.

It was end-to-end stuff with Salisbury eventually winning 5-4, even though with little time left it was three tries all.

Unfortunately the defence, which has been so good in friendlies recently, let them down.

Tries in this game were from Jake (2), David and Ioan.

Cowbridge 5 Sherbourne 3
In the fourth game, Cowbridge produced their best rugby of the tournament. There were two tries from Oliver and three by Jake, although it was the teamwork that shone through.

Cowbridge 1 Corsham 4

At the other end, Curran made a crucial clearance as Matthew Jones was preparing to pounce, but it wasn't long before he was back at the other end of the action, as the point-saving double act of the previous week got together again - Curran running in to score an excellent header from an equally good Martyn corner kick.

Before 25 minutes were on the clock, Mills, playing a slightly deeper role than usual, fed Murphy to double the lead.

Ten minutes later, Martyn got hold of the ball some 35 yards out on the left, and his cross-cum-shot completely deceived Prosser in the Stars' goal as it dropped into the net.

This seemed to sting Cwmfach into action as, for the first time in the game, and with half-time approaching, they began to build a head of steam.

Indeed they continued in this manner into the second half, and as the pressure grew, Curran made his only error of



Jasmine Quinn (age 8) from Bridgend - proud finisher at last year's event.

Vital three points earned by Cadoxton Barry FC

South Wales Senior League Division One
CADOXTON BARRY FC 3
CWMBACH ROYAL STARS 1

WHILE the score might suggest otherwise, Cadoxton Barry FC were forced to battle all the way for three points that could eventually prove vital in their bid to avoid relegation.

The star man in that battle was Pat Curran, who was paramount in helping his team take home the important three points.

Stars had a huge centre forward who was the target of many of their forward thrusts; yet Curran, by means of excellent marking and his perfectly-timed headed clearances, rendered this potentially dangerous striker ineffective for most of the game.

The first half belonged to Cadoxton Barry as an early Mills cross found Martyn, who hit a post with Murphy unable to steer the rebound home.

At the other end, Curran made a crucial clearance as Matthew Jones was preparing to pounce, but it wasn't long before he was back at the other end of the action, as the point-saving double act of the previous week got together again - Curran running in to score an excellent header from an equally good Martyn corner kick.

It will be the first time that the race has been held in Bridgend in many years, and will see top cyclists from across the country compete to become the national champion of Wales.

The race is considered to be the peak of the Welsh domestic cycling calendar and is part of the Union Cycliste Internationale (International Cycling Union) system, which concludes with the Olympics and Tour de France. Running throughout the day, the main 120km race will begin in the Ogmore Valley and consist of repeated laps through Blackmill, Bryncethin, Brynnymyn, Llangenor

CHANCE TO TRY JUNIOR TRIATHLON

THE Pencoed Junior Triathlon and 'Fun2Tri' event for eight-16 year olds will take place at Pencoed Pool, on Sunday, May 22.

A spokeswoman said: "Children will swim, bike and run in four age groups. Distances are suited to the age of the child, and medals will go to the top three male and females in each age group.

"To give all children, regardless of experience and fitness levels, the opportunity to have a go, our Fun2Tri novice wave

for eight-14 year olds will not be timed, has shorter distances and an emphasis on having a go and having lots of fun!" said event organiser Debbie Cooke. "The event takes place in the pool and on surrounding playing fields - entirely traffic free."

For an entry form and further information, visit the club website www.pencoedtri.org or email ema@pencoedtri.org or telephone Liz Lewis on 01446 771507. The closing date is May 16 or when event full (maximum 100 entrants).

Rhose under-12s hang onto hard victory

RHOOSE under-12s started their game with Wenvoe well and opened the scoring with a well worked move.

Lee Bartlett and Cameron Leach found Josh Morgan in space, and he calmly rounded the keeper.

Jay Munn battled hard in midfield and it was his cross that led to a second goal for Rhose when Mitch McCabe just managed to get in front of the Wenvoe defender.

Wenvoe played some good attacking football and Rhose had to rely on keeper Michael Wilson several times.

In the second half Wenvoe continue to press, but Rhose

defenders Edward Thomas and Ryan Hughes made some great blocks.

Matt Cottingham and Patrick O'Carroll also made some timely interceptions to thwart Wenvoe attacks.

Wenvoe pulled one back, but Rhose maintained their advantage with a superbly hit strike by Daniel Cope which found the top corner.

Wenvoe scored again towards the end of the match, which meant a nervous time for Rhose, but with Jordan Holt making some good challenges in midfield, and Andrew Wilson holding the ball up well, Rhose managed to hang on to their victory.

MB

Welsh road racing championships come to Bridgend in 2011

BRIDGEND'S council-run Ogmore Valley Life Centre has won the bid to host the Welsh Road Racing Championships in May 2011.

It will be the first time that the race has been held in Bridgend in many years, and will see top cyclists from across the country compete to become the national champion of Wales.

The race is considered to be the peak of the Welsh domestic cycling calendar and is part of the Union Cycliste Internationale (International Cycling Union) system, which concludes with the Olympics and Tour de France. Running throughout the day, the main 120km race will begin in the Ogmore Valley and consist of repeated laps through Blackmill, Bryncethin, Brynnymyn, Llangenor

and Nant-y-moel.

The leisure centre has teamed up with the Ogmore Valley Wheelers club and Ogmore Valley Primary School to host the race and all will show their support by organising a series of community events.

Dean Protheroe, centre manager said: "We are delighted to be part of this prestigious event and to be involved in developing this within the local community. We look forward to the year ahead in Ogmore."

Spectators will be able to watch the race as well as enjoy the activi-

ties and competitions running in the centre, such as bike workshops, children's activities and a presentation ceremony for the winners.

The winner will be crowned national champion of Wales and entitled to wear the national colours in races during the following year. Previous winner, Geraint Thomas MBE, went on to ride in the Tour de France in 2007, later becoming an Olympic and World Championship gold medalist.

Busy time for Cowbridge Town under-12 B team

COWBRIDGE Town under-12 B have been busy recently with plenty of games, although with a mixed bag of results and performances.

The team travelled to Wenvoe and after a great team effort, came away with a well earned 2-2 draw, Tom Bailey scoring both his team's goals.

Next up were Cadoxton Imps A, and in a very entertaining game Cadoxton just edged it 3-2, with Callum Blackman scoring both Cowbridge goals.

Sully B came to Corntown and again in a very good game, after getting themselves back into the game at 4-4, bad habits crept back into the Cowbridge display and Sully went on to score three more goals, to leave the final score 4-7 to Sully; goalscorers James Reeves (2), Joe Watts and Tom Bailey.

Cowbridge then had two away games. First up was Dinas B, and after leading 2-1 for most of the game Dinas equalised in the last seconds to force a draw; goalscorers Tom Bailey and an own goal.

The boys then travelled to play Cogan B and in a much improved display, they ran out 4-2 winners with

goals coming from Iwan Goodwin, Owen Tuckell (2), and an own goal.

Cadoxton B came to Corntown and in a one-sided game ran out 9-1 winners, Iwan Goodwin with the consolation goal for Cowbridge.

The boys then had two away games, the first being against Holton Road. In a game of two halves, the boys conceded six first half goals, while the second half display was superb, conceding no goals and getting on the score sheet themselves through a James Reeves penalty, to leave the final score 6-1.

The return game at Sully B ended in a 2-2 draw with goals coming from Joe Watts and Iwan Goodwin.

Hopefully, the boys can improve on their recent results and performances and get a few wins under their belts.

Thanks to Craig Burrows and all the senior team players for helping out with training and the continuing support of all the parents.

Squad: H Hopkins, T Kynaston, J Evans, A Davies, I Silverthorne, J Reeves, J Watts, S John, S Skeet, T Bailey, C Blackman, O Tuckwell, I Goodwin, S Fairclough, S Treharne, J Jones, M Timms.

EJ

Read your GEM online: barry-today.co.uk, llantwit-major-today.co.uk, cowbridge-today.co.uk or bridgend-today.co.uk
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TEAM SO CLOSE TO FINAL GLORY



Vale team in form but lose out in semi-final

LEFT: Nick Boudier (in green) leaping in the lineout.

AT a sunny Tondur RFC, the Vale under-15 rugby team overcame Bridgend schools by 18-12 in the Morgan Griffiths plate competition quarter-final.

Both teams started well, with Bridgend getting the first score with a try by their burly No 8 after a close range lineout drive, adding the conversion to make it 7-0.

The Vale hit back through some good handling in the backs using Morgan Williams, Jacob Burgess, Matt Allen and Kieron Mitchell, and were awarded a number of penalties. Ed Howley made certain of one and hit the upright with another.

Before half-time, Owain Lord pounced on a loose ball to score a try. Howley added the conversion to turn around at half-time, 7-10 up.

The second half started particularly well for Bridgend by using their dangerous backs, especially their full-back and right wing, who worked well to create an overlap on the right to score in the corner.

Vale had to defend with both backs and forwards and, from a defensive kick on their own line, a favourable bounce landed in the hands of the chasing Che Pomphrey to gather and feed the supporting James Whittingham,

who did well to find the ever-present Nick Boudier, who powered in from 15 metres out to score near the posts.

Ed Howley's conversion hit the upright again and was adjudged to have missed.

The final five minutes saw a heroic defensive display by the Vale as Bridgend threw everything at them, using the bigger pack and dangerous wide runners. The Vale were up to the task, led by Stef Baker, John Miles, Harry Thomas and Chris Brace.

Vale managed to clear their lines by kicking out of danger, following up well and causing Bridgend to lose possession. The Bridgend full-back was penalised and Howley made sure of the three points.

Final score: Bridgend 12, Vale of Glamorgan 18.

In the semi-final against Pontypridd at Hawthorn High School, the result was reversed with Pontypridd running out deserved victors by 26-5. Against a team that had played a number of high calibre matches recently, the Vale schools started well, ably led by Harry Roberts at hooker.

The first exchanges were explosive affairs with neither team taking a backward step.

Ponty were the first to score using their dangerous backline in the first five minutes to score out wide.

Ponty scored two further tries without reply, but the Vale battled well to contain them and score a try of their own from a tap penalty, Harry Roberts driving over after quick thinking by Owain Lord and Chris Brace.

A kick and chase from Ponty saw a mistimed attempt to minor the ball and the Ponty outside-half followed up to score. After a few handbags at six paces a player from each team was sent to the bin and the game got back to business.

Ponty exploited a loose clearance to run wide and score through their left wing, making the final score 26-5.

The team's 15-a-side exploits this season have come to an end but they look forward to the national sevens competition in May. Harry Roberts praised the help and time given by coaches and managers this season to make it such an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Vale squad: Sam Hall, Harry Roberts, Alan Doyle, John Miles, Nick Boudier, Steffan Baker, Kieran Mitchell, Matt Allen, Owain Lord, James Whittingham, Che Pomphrey, Ed Howley, Morgan Williams, Harry Thomas, Jacob Burgess, Mason Good, Lewis Griffiths, Harry D-Bennett, Chris Brace, Dafydd Fardy.



Rhoose FC show their new kit

RHOOSE FC's year-2 side are pictured sporting their new kit, kindly supplied by BBM Control Systems. The children were able to run out on Saturday in their new kit for the first time this season.

Cowbridge RFC grab last-ditch win over Ponty

THE Cowbridge under-13s travelled up to Glyncoch to try and avenge a narrow defeat to Pontypridd RFC earlier in the season.

The game got off to a very fast start and for the first 10 minutes, Cowbridge were under pressure with Ponty securing the first try of the game to take a 7-0 lead.

The Cowbridge pack started to boss their opponents with excellent work from Owain Thomas, Jenkins, Luke John and Tom Evans and Cowbridge started to get a lot of ball, which resulted in a scrum half Tom Lucas scrambling over for a try which was duly converted by Matt Harper, who had a brilliant game at fly half.

The score changed hands several times with Cowbridge constantly on the attack with great runs from Tom Trotman, Rian Thomas and Nathan Robson pushing the Ponty defence at all times, ably supported by the Cowbridge pack who protected the ball at all times.

Ben Jones, who was outstanding at number 8 throughout the game, linked in a move off the back of a scrum to crash over for a score before half time, and further second half tries from Tom Trotman and a last minute length of the field effort from Tom Lucas left Matt Harper to secure the game for Cowbridge with the winning conversion and a final score of Cowbridge 26, Pontypridd 24.

A fantastic team effort played in the best of spirits by two very capable teams enabled Cowbridge to have a very enjoyable journey home – well done boys! ML

The under-12s survive the Pentyrch test

Cowbridge under-12s	34
Pentyrch	19

COWBRIDGE visited Pentyrch for the first time this season after defeating them twice previously at home.

Cowbridge struggled to impose themselves on the home side for the first 10 minutes but an excellent burst through the Pentyrch defence by centre Dan Bunney midway through the first half opened the scoring for the visitors when he scored under the posts; Cai Evans converted.

The faster Cowbridge forwards now began to dominate, with Matthew Keating and Tom Edwards launching a powerful maul which allowed flanker Duncan Ace to breakaway, brushing aside a number of defenders before crashing over for an excellent try in the corner.

A third opportunist try, also unconverted, by scrum half Osian John took the score to 17-0, however, Pentyrch rallied to score a converted try just before half time to leave them with some hope in the second half.

In the second period Pentyrch carried on as

they had finished in the first half by scoring a second try almost immediately, leaving the visitors with a slender three-point lead.

A period of sustained pressure forced Cowbridge onto the back foot and only brave tackling by Charlie Martin, Seán Davies and Michael Thomas prevented their opponents from taking the lead.

However, Cowbridge weathered the storm and hit back in fine style as full back Charlie Pegrum off loaded in a tackle to send wing Harrison Stevens on a 30-yard dash to the line.

A second converted try for Dan Bunney gave the visitors a 15-point lead, but Pentyrch were not to be outdone and fought back well to score a try and reduce the lead to 10 points.

The last 10 minutes of the game were the most exciting as the game swung back and forth, and it was Cowbridge who had the last word, when Dan Bunney completed his hat trick to score the final try.

ML

Open cricket day for the juniors

COWBRIDGE Cricket Club holds a junior open day on Sunday, April 10 at 10.30am at the Athletic Ground.

There will be registration, coaching by fully qualified ECB coaches, a barbecue and raffle.

The club is keen for all boys or girls, experienced or beginners to get involved.

In addition to weekly coaching, the club will be running junior teams (under-9, under-11, under-13 and under-15) in the Cardiff and The Vale League and the National Knockout Cup.

For further information, contact Ian Evans (junior coordinator) on 01446 - 796211 or visit the Club's website: www.cowbridgecricket.co.uk.

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Cadoxton Imps under-15s maintain their title bid

CADOXTON IMPs under-15s travelled to Cogan on Saturday to try to maintain their fantastic unbeaten run.

The Imps started the stronger and the early pressure paid off when a piledriver from Ashley Cottle nearly broke the Cogan net to give the Imps a well deserved lead.

Cogan gradually made their way back into the match, keeping the impressive Imps defence of Jacob Burgess, Louis Burrows and another top performance by Gage Waller reasonably busy.

Unfortunately, an injury to Jacob meant the Imps had to make an early substitution, thus allowing the welcome return to the team of the ever reliable Tom Dyball, following his recent back injury.

As the Imps took control of the game again, the frontline of Jordan Williams and Callum Harding were starting to look more and more dangerous, coming close to grabbing the all important second goal.

The passing became more assured through-

out the half with the hardworking midfield of Sam Becks, Izaak Farrag, Dan Morgan, Ben Pearce and man of the match Ashley Cottle all becoming instrumental in creating chances.

Midway through the half the Imps got their second when Jordan picked up a pass on the edge of the box and hit a brilliant shot into the bottom corner, giving the Cogan keeper no chance.

Cogan replied well, keeping the ever-brilliant Sam Rees Davies on his toes.

The spell of pressure paid off when a Cogan player fired an absolute screamer into the roof of the net.

The Imps then showed great character with a wonderful counter attacking goal.

The ball was spread to Ben, who flew past the Cogan left back and fed an inch perfect low cross to Callum, who coolly slotted the ball into the bottom corner to give the Imps some breathing space again.

The introduction of Jo Robinson, Kieran Thomas and the highly skillful Kieran Ashton made a positive impact on the game.

The Imps then

wrapped the game up early on in the second half when, following another good attacking move, Dan neatly placed his shot past the Cogan keeper.

The game then eased down, although Jordan nearly grabbed his second goal late on with a

thunderous shot that almost snapped the Cogan bar.

We would all like to wish our goalkeeper Sam all the best with his future prospects at Cardiff City's development academy. Good luck, you deserve it.

JH

Penarth mixed veterans are marching on

PENARTH Windsor mixed veterans chalked up a third consecutive win with a resounding victory against Cwmbran.

Ian and Beth Hughes got off to a shaky start, losing the first three games in their first match, before going on to win the next 12 games to secure a 6-3, 6-0 victory.

Peter Bellingham and Cathy O'Doherty also started slowly, but came back from 4-0 down to win their first set 7-5, and then secured the second set 6-2 to win the match.

In the second round, the Penarth Windsor team played with

increased confidence.

The Hughes team comfortably took their match 6-2, 6-1, while Bellingham and O'Doherty made relatively easy weather of their match to win 6-4, 6-2.

The result was a satisfying 4-0 win for the Seasideers.

The Cwmbran victory is part of a successful season for the Windsor mixed veterans.

They have notched up wins over a previously unbeaten Dinas Powys side, as well as taking the honours against Cowbridge.

For more information, contact Nigel Gabriel 07540 166626.

NG

Getting ready for new season at St Andrews

LAST weekend determined the final result of the winter league season at St Andrews Major Golf Club.

Sam Low and Sarah Gronow clinched the ladies winter league title in a closely fought match with Hilary James and Jane Harris.

Having gone five holes up by the seventh, Sam and Sarah were then pegged back to just one hole before securing their position on the gold leaf board with a two and one win.

This follows on from the mens winter league final, which was won by Craig Johansen and Phil Westcott, and the Wayne Pritchard

memorial which was won by Rob Picton and Mark Cleaver.

The club are eagerly looking forward to the main golf season.

This year promises to be one of the busiest yet at St Andrews, with more events than ever before.

The sponsors cup day has already attracted a large amount of interest from local businesses and offers 'hole in one' prizes of a new car, weekend away, set of golf clubs and golfing vouchers, along with many other 'spot prizes'.

For more information visit the members website www.sangolf-club.com.

JL

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SAINTS went goal crazy in this frantic top-of-the-table clash.

Jordan Mortimore hit four goals, with a Dean Cleave double and one each from Nick Dyke, Leigh Lewis and an own goal adding to the scoring.

Saint Patrick Rovers had the perfect start, however, when Tony Charles, playing at centre-half, scythed down their winger in the box and a spot kick was awarded. Rovers dispatched their spot kick into the net for an early lead inside five minutes.

Saints went on in search of an equaliser and Mortimore hit the bar with a header almost immediately.

Saints kept plugging away and got their reward after 20 minutes. A James Austin free kick was met by the head of Cleave and the midfielder levelled the score.

Rovers went up the other end and stunned Saints straight away when a free kick was fumbled and their big defender smashed in from close range. A frantic few minutes followed as Saints levelled

for the second time four minutes later when a Nicky Cox ball forward was latched on to by Leigh Lewis in the area, and he lifted the ball over the oncoming keeper.

Two minutes later and Saints had the lead for the first time when Mortimore took the ball in his stride and dinked it neatly over the home keeper.

It was another two minutes later when Saints extended their lead. A big boot forward by Gareth Richards in goal eluded the centre-half and Dyke raced on to the ball and produced an exquisite lob over the keeper to score from the edge of the area.

Mortimore then put a penalty away in off the post and Saints had a three-goal cushion.

St Pat's were not to lay down though and had a second penalty, which they scored from.

Seconds away from half-time and a ball into the box by the home side saw a breakdown in communication by the away defence and Charles scored an unfortunate own goal. Saints went in 5-4 up after a pulsating first half.

Bridgend nd District Sunday League Division One SAINT PATRICK ROVERS SUNDAY SAINTS FC

Saints got the start to the second half they wanted when a Cleave ball into the box was met by the foot of a home defender and the ball looped into his own net.

Saints restored their three-goal cushion minutes later when a Reece Lewis free kick into the box was met by the unmarked Cleave and he headed in his second of the game and an unbelievable 16th in 15 games this season.

St Pat's pulled another one back mid-way through the half after breaking the offside trap, but Saints were comfortable at this point and in full control.

Dyke went on to strike the bar with another great lob and Leigh Lewis struck what looked to be goal of the

game, but the ref failed to play the advantage after a foul on Lewis and the whistle had already gone.

Mortimore completed his hat trick when another Leigh Lewis long throw wreaked havoc in the home area and Joel Tofton's strike was blocked and came out for Mortimore to smash in from eight yards.

The scoring was complete a minute later when Alan Lawson's perfect cross was powered in by the head of Mortimore for his fourth of the game and an incredible 38th goal in 19 games this season.

Saints almost made it 10 when TJ Bowring hit a left-footed effort across goal but it squirmed agonisingly past the far post.

Saints took a while to

get going here but when they did, they were in complete control against a good St Pat's side. Saints need results to go their way to claim the 1st Division title and by winning games like this are doing their part.

Saints are not back in action until April 10 at home against St Patrick Rovers in the semi-final of the 1st Division league cup.

Man of the match was Jordan Mortimore after his four goals helped his team to victory.

Many thanks to Lafarge Cement (Aberthaw Works), The Kinsale Stone Company (Wales) Ltd for sponsorship of the team and to Roy and Cyndy at the Four Bells, St Athan for their continued support for the team.

Saints FC: G Richards, R Lewis, A Lawson, A Charles, N Cox (captain), T Roberts, D Cleave, J Austin (J Tofton on 72 minutes), L Lewis (R Collings on 81 minutes), J Mortimore, N Dyke (TJ Bowring on 82 minutes). Subs: J Tofton, R Collings, G Morgans, TJ Bowring.

HD

Dinas Powys FC find it no fun to play at the YMCA!

THIS was the worst result, and probably the poorest performance of the season for Dinas against a YMCA side boosted by their 1-1 draw the week before against top of the table side Ton Pentre.

Dinas weren't able to get any fluency in their football on a lively pitch during a first-half with YM edging possession, but Dinas having the best opportunities to get on the scoresheet.

On thirty-two minutes, a Ben Dimond corner found Dave Penikett at the far post who somehow managed to hook the ball back for Gareth Tedstone, his shot hit the upright.

A few minutes later a good ball out of defence found Tedstone who crossed for Barrie Gunstone, whose first-time shot hit the same post and bounced down into the grateful arms of Mark Mears in the YM goal.

At the other end, Naill Yates headed a free-kick wide and an Oliver Beckett cross forced Dave Burnett in the Dinas goal to punch the

Welsh League Division Two Newport YMCA Dinas Powys

ball out for a corner. In the second-half Dinas just didn't get going, their cause not helped when they lost two influential players, Dave Penikett and Barrie Gunstone, to injury.

Twenty minutes into the half, the home side took the lead when an innocuous thirty yard free-kick was deflected to substitute Daniel Edwards, who scored with a low shot from eight yards.

Just before the goal Dave Burnett in the Dinas goal had made an excellent save from a Yeates header, but he couldn't do anything when he was beaten by Oliver Beckett's deflected shot from twenty yards. The best goal of the game came from YM captain Alex Jenkins, who didn't need any help from a deflection with his long range 25 yard effort.

The visitors' misery was complete when a low cross found Aaron Stewart, who had the simplest task of scoring

from close range to give the home side a fully deserved three points.

With a certain Wales v England match next Saturday, Dinas travel to Ammanford for a rearranged game on the Sunday.

Squad: Dave Burnett, Rhodri Foote, Danny Street, Michael Hayward, Dave Penikett, Jon Carpenter, Ricki Morgan, Liam Jones, Barrie Gunstone, Gareth Tedstone, Ben Dimond. Subs: Stephen Provis, Mark Dunford, Dan Jose.

Next game, Welsh League Division Two, Ammanford v Dinas Powys, Sunday, March 27, kick off 2.30pm.

For further news and fixtures see the club's web site: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

MW

Barry under-8s miss out in tournament



BARRY under-8s played their part in an excellent rugby tournament at Llandaff North RFC on Sunday.

In Barry's group were the hosts Llandaff, Penarth and Rumney.

In the first match, Barry played Penarth. This game was nip and tuck for the full match, and a draw was a fair result.

The second game saw the Vale side up against the host side. Barry went about their business, and ran in worthy 7-5 winners.

This left Barry knowing a draw or win in their last game against Rumney would see them through. Barry started

slowly in what turned out to be the most entertaining game of the day as they just lost out, 6-4.

All the players from Barry played with great team spirit.

D Parry-Griffiths and C Saunders scored plenty of tries in the three games.

Z. Field, B Phillips, J Roberts, and I Escott all showed great support play and tagging, while E Rudolph, C Denbury and Dylan all carried the ball well.

Finally, J Couch proved a great battering ram as Barry looked to gain yardage.

Well done boys and girls, first class display from all and great sportmanship shown by all players yet again.

LS

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB

LATEST results from Barrivale:

Tuesday, March 1 - 1st, Mick Green and Mike Close 66.67 per cent; 2nd, Kay Dyer and Jane Brook 58.73; 3rd, Mark Roderick and Noelle Bond 55.56. Mick & Mike also won on handicap.

Tuesday, March 8 - 1st, Noelle Bond and Mick Green 61.11 per cent; 2nd, Hilary Laurence and Denis Mottram 54.76; 3rd, Adrian Thomas and Bryn Gough 53.17.

Hilary and Denis won on handicap. New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information ring 01446 733425.

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THIS SATURDAY PROMISES TO BE QUITE THE DAY FOR HUNT-RACING ENTHUSIASTS

LOCAL hunt racing enthusiasts will be flocking to Uplands, Ystradowen, on Saturday, March 26, for the annual Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases which sees the start of the season in the Vale.

Racing gets under way at 2pm with the members' race and during the afternoon, there will be a parade of hounds. The mixed open race will be run at 4.30pm and the last race on the card is the restricted race at 5.05pm.

Meanwhile, the most popular winner at the Currie and Llangibby Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases was Gwynne Phillips's *Books*

Review (Open Maiden Division 3) who, well ridden by John Mathias, got up on the run to the winning post to overtake *Wilkinson*, partnered by Tom David, who had jumped the last in front.

Books Review, a seven-year-old bay gelding trained by former leading lady rider Shan Farr, of *Mandryka* fame, was bred by his owner, a retired steel worker well known on the hunt racing circuit, and who was absolutely delighted.

The ladies' open race was won by Beth Roberts' *Chesnut Annie*, who was recording her 25th success.

Chesnut Annie, who like *Books Law* is qualified by the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt, led from start to finish to win by 10 lengths from *Blue Business*.

Willie Twiston-Davies, 16 year-old son

of leading National Hunt trainer Nigel Twiston-Davies, took the men's open race winning by a comfortable three lengths from *Burntoakboy*.

Meanwhile, Tom David, former conditional jockey to Aherthin's Tim Vaughan, has reverted back to being an amateur rider after finding it difficult to get many rides from trainers other than Vaughan.

Tom (20), who has ridden point-to-point winners for Princess Anne, said: "I was never going to be in the top 15-20 jockeys, so I thought it best to go back to being an amateur."

"I didn't want to go past the number of winners - 25 - that would have meant I couldn't go back."

Ffos Las Racecourse has proved a happy hunting ground for Llancarfan's Evan Williams, who saddled the racecourse's first ever winner.

At the recent last meeting his *MickMacGooole* came in at odds of 5-1, while on the same day at Newton Abbot earlier in the day his *Alla Svelta* won the opener.

Williams and Vaughan had both winners at Fontwell on Wednesday, Vaughan scored with *Piment D'estral* and

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Williams with *Gurtacruie*.

At Chepstow, Williams was successful with 16-1 outsider *Extreme Pact* who landed the handicap hurdle under T J O'Brien.

MATHIAS'S UNIQUE SIX-TIMER

HUNT racing history was made at the Tivyside Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechase at Cilwendig on Sunday when John Mathias, a 20-year-old farmer's son, who is the reigning Welsh champion point-to-point rider, landed a unique six-timer.

Mathias won the first five races he rode in and then, after finishing fourth on the favourite *Cilhiwron* in the first division of the confined maiden, won the next division of the race on *Banagher* a horse which also gave him his first win as a trainer.

Mathias' six winners were *Balearic Star* (Members), *Lydstep Hills* (Confined), *Pathian Prince* (Intermediate), *Rosies Peacock* (Men's Open), *Saint Petray* (Restricted) and *Banagher* (Maiden Division Two). Racegoers stayed

behind after Mathias's sixth winner to congratulate him and some even asked him to autograph their racecards!

Local and national press photographers took pictures of him when he returned to the winners' enclosure after his sixth and final winner, and the atmosphere was electric.

In the long history of the sport, no other rider has ridden six winners between-the-flags on any one day - only a few have managed to achieve five-timers.

Only two of the 11 entries faced the starter for the AGA Ladies open race and this resulted in another win for Beth Roberts' *Chesnut Annie* who, ridden by regular rider Welsh champion Isabel Tompsett, finished alone after Keith Pritchard's *Chandlers Cross*, partnered by Jodie Hughes, pulled up three fences from the finish when a long way behind.

Ogmore's Nick Williams rode a well-judged race on Huw Goldsworthy's *Atmywisland* to land the first division of the confined maiden race coming home by three lengths ahead of *Mini Palm* ridden by Bradley

Gibbs. Jordan Williams, aged 12, riding *Tommy's Girl* the outsider of three in the 14.2hh pony race, made nearly all the running to beat the odds-on favourite *Springs*.

Jordon, a pupil of Rhymney Comprehensive School, who likes looking after the sheep on his grandfather Bernard Llewellyn's Bargoed farm, has hopes of becoming a flat racing jockey.

The 13.2hh pony race was won by Lorcan Williams (aged 11), no relation to Jordan Williams, on his chestnut mare *Pennway Tap Dance*, who also made all the running after being backed from 3-1 to off the boards.

TIM'S RUN OF SECONDS

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan made a bold bid to saddle his first Cheltenham Festival winner last week, but unfortunately he ended up in the place reserved for the runner-up on three occasions.

On the Wednesday, his *Beshabar* was given a cracking ride by Tom David in the four-mile National Hunt Chase Challenge Cup but the 5-1 favourite *Chicago Grey*, who ironically had brought down *Beshabar* in a race at Cheltenham

in November, proved too speedy on the run-in and won by four and a half lengths.

Then, in the Wetherby's Champion Bumper (Standard NH Flat Race) - the final race on the card - Tim's 66-1 outsider *Destroyer Deployed* under Aidan Coleman finished runner-up to the Peter Hobbs-trained *Cheltenham* by five lengths.

The following day, Tim ran his *Nemo Spirit* in the St Patrick's Day Derby (charity race) and ridden by Rodger Sargent, this six-year-old finished second to the Henry Cecil-trained *Hotpot Plato* partnered by Lorna Fowler.

To train a horse to finish in the first three at the Cheltenham Festival is meeting in itself, so Tim should not be too disappointed that he didn't quite make the winner's enclosure on this occasion.

Meanwhile, Sam Waley-Cohen, who won the Gold Cup on *Long Run* (at six, the youngest horse in the race) is no stranger to hunt-racing enthusiasts in the Vale. In 2002, 2003 and 2004 he won the Welsh Point-To-Point 'Grand National' at Bonvilston on his father Robert's French-bred *Down*. No other horse has achieved this feat.

And did you know that *Holmwood Legend*, which won the Byrne Group Plate at Cheltenham on the Thursday, was a winner at the Countryside Alliance Point-To-Point meeting at Bonvilston in 2009?

COWBRIDGE RIDER'S DOUBLE CENTURY!

James Tudor, assistant trainer to Llancarfan's Evan Williams and a former national point-to-point champion rider, chalked up his 200th winner-between-the-flags and under rules - when landing the men's open race on *Alan Hill's Start Royal* at the Bicester With Whaddon Chase at Whitfield on Sunday.

Start Royal beat *Up There*, owned by Rae Jones, and qualified with the Pentyrch Hunt.

Evan Williams landed a 35-1 double at Ffos Las on Saturday with *Prince Massini* and *Cold Harbour*. The former was ridden by Paul Moloney and the later by Aidan Conlan.

Kenfig Hill's Rhys Flint won the opener on 25-1 chance *Street Dance* for West Wales trainer Keith Goldsworthy.

Netball teams looking sharp!

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GEM sport

Can Wales get up to speed before the autumn leaves fall?

SO there you have it, another frustrating, up-and-down Six Nations campaign that in the case of Wales, began in cautious optimism at Cardiff, flickered into life in Edinburgh and Rome, and ended with barely a whimper in Paris.

Sandwiched in between the opening 26-19 loss to England and last Saturday's 28-9 defeat to France, were the three victories over Scotland (24-6), Italy (24-16), and Ireland (19-13), that had put Wales in with an outside chance of snaffling the championship when England's Grand Slam dream was ruthlessly snuffed out in Dublin.

Indeed, when the Welsh players ran out at Parc des Princes on Saturday evening, they already knew that the Irish team they had narrowly overcome just a week before, had manfully regrouped to defeat Martin Johnson's tournament favourites far more comprehensively than the 24-8 final score suggested.

What greater incentive could there have been for Wales to follow Ireland's inspired example and come out with all guns blazing against a new-look French side drastically revamped following their coach's scathing criticism in the wake of losing for the first time ever to wooden spoonists Italy?

Now was the time to seize the moment and make a heroic attempt to close the yawning 27-point gap to the championship title – or at least round off the Six Nations on a tri-

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

umphant note in the last meaningful match before the Rugby World Cup in the autumn.

Instead, in the space of 80 minutes, Wales slumped from second place in the table, to their now seemingly entrenched fourth spot, as they failed to rise to the challenge against an unremarkable French team that had little more to do than snap up the easy opportunities handed to them on a plate by basic Welsh shortcomings.

Wales had in fact drawn first blood inside two minutes when outside half James Hook kicked the first of his three penalties which would represent his side's total score.

Morgan Parra replied with two penalty kicks and man-of-the-match Lionel Nallet ended the first half with the first of his two gifted tries to make the score at the change-over 11-3.

When play resumed, Hook struck his third and final penalty, but any lingering hopes of a Welsh fightback vanished with Nallet's second try when he charged down Hook's attempted clearance, followed by a Parra penalty and a converted try while the unfortunate Hook was in the sin bin for a highly-debatable 'dangerous tackle'.

He was replaced by Stephen Jones and (again somewhat belatedly) scrum half Dwayne Peel came off the replacements bench to inject more urgency and pace into Welsh

efforts, but by then the battle and any lingering chance of the championship was lost.

One can only wonder if the outcome may have been different if he and Hook had had more time together to make an impact earlier in the match.

Afterwards, a clearly angry head coach Warren Gatland pointed a finger at his players, saying: "They just didn't turn up... The team was not in the right mental frame of mind."

Surely, though, if that was the case, the coaches should not be totally absolved of responsibility for the team's lack of preparedness?

One wonders if bizarre off the field problems in the Welsh camp had been a contributory factor? Defence coach Shaun Edwards had been omitted from the party travelling to Paris on disciplinary grounds, following an altercation with a backroom colleague.

This may well have been an unwelcome distraction for the players just when everyone in the back room should have been singing from the same song sheet before such a crucial game...

One can only hope that it was an isolated incident and not symptomatic of underlying problems in the Welsh camp during the run-in to yet another Rugby World Cup.

We've all been down that road before!

Be that as it may, the Welsh camp surely has some serious on-field thinking to do, with so little time left to the start of the World Cup in the autumn.

Not least is the underlying core approach to a style of play which at present puts the main emphasis on muscular defence and tight control, rather than a more fluid, instinctive game played at pace.

The need for a rock-solid platform is of course undeniable (particularly in this age of giants!) given well-chronicled past weaknesses, but it cannot be an end in itself.

Moreover, in the process Welsh individual flair is now at risk of becoming an endangered species – along with what I would call 'the art of the unexpected' in which so many great Welsh players of the past naturally excelled.

Sadly, the present approach (with rare exceptions, epitomised by the mercurial Shane Williams) rarely contains that subtle element of surprise – and potent speed of hand and foot which was once a distinguishing feature of Welsh play.

There is no question that the present-day squad of players are potentially every bit as talented as their forebears, but the sum is not always equal to the parts and frustrating inconsistency continues to be a major concern for the Welsh camp.

They now have a handful of summer warm-up games in which to put this right before world rugby's most testing knockout competition gets under way Down Under.

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Last-minute breakaway try clinches win for Athletic

IT might have been Six Nations Super Saturday, but with Wales not kicking off in Paris until late evening, this was business as usual in the very competitive Division One West.

This week's visitors were the last team to inflict a league defeat on the Athletic; and that was back on October 30. Since then, the Athletic have racked up wins against Carmarthen Athletic, Corus, Maesteg, Narberth and UWIC, as well as a lacklustre draw at bottom club Felinfoel.

There was certainly no complacency in the Athletic's ranks as Llangennech's lowly

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC LLANGENNECH

22
21

league position is something of a mystery, as they are a team of big, strong, well-drilled forwards and a set of strong pacy backs with coach, former British Lions hooker Barry Williams, at the helm. In addition, the Athletic were without all-action captain Sean Williams, who was injured in the excellent bonus point win over UWIC on Tuesday night.

In perfect conditions, the game kicked off and early exchanges were fairly even before Llangennech launched a powerful assault into the home 22, with both forwards and backs fully involved. With the

Athletic stretched to breaking point, there was a knock-on in mid-field to take away the immediate danger.

It wasn't long before it was the Athletic's turn to exert intense pressure on their opponents. Llangennech gave away a penalty less than 10m out from their own line and quick thinking by fly-half Steve Lewis saw him tap and dart over untouched for a try that he also converted.

Despite this score, Llangennech were soon back on top, putting the home scrum under pressure and attempting to disrupt their ball. The Athletic were able to nullify Llangennech's

attacks with some excellent defence, well led by centre Stuart Morris before launching another series of attacks when impressive No 8 Tom Penry-Ellis linked with livewire scrum-half Aled Thomas to release wings James Olds and Lloyd Pemberton on rampaging runs.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 26)



Aled Thomas gets his kick away.
PHOTOGRAPH BY ADRIAN BURT

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